

Spotlight Mr. Flynn



By **CASSIDY GIACOPPO, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Everyone knows Mr. Malcolm Flynn. As the head of discipline, many students have been to his office. Whether they've had their phone taken away or started a fight with someone, a trip to Mr. Flynn's office isn't always a good one.

What many people do not know is that Mr. Flynn was not always the head of discipline, and this year we are celebrating his fiftieth anniversary teaching at Boston Latin School (BLS)! You are probably wondering, "How did he survive this for so long?" Mr. Flynn actually loves what he does. His favorite part of BLS is the constant change. He enjoys seeing creative ideas because they show new approaches to old things. "It's never the same; it's always evolving. It isn't static; it's becoming something better," he explains.

Mr. Flynn entered BLS as a temporary English teacher in 1964. As its advisor, he led the chess team to a state championship win, which motivated the impressed headmaster to open up a teaching position to him. Thereafter, he was a chess advisor for 20 years; under his supervision, the team won seven state championships and one national championship. "I was never a genius chess player; the students made themselves good," Mr. Flynn says modestly. He was also the on-and-off advisor for Student Council for 25 years and to the Argo for another 25. He has run the extracurricular fair since its inception and continues to supervise the BLS Mock Trial Team. He even served as a golf coach during the 1960s and 1970s! During this time, he taught English at each grade level for 34 years until he was promoted to his current position as Assistant Headmaster. He is a member of the faculty senate and is in charge of faculty and student affairs.

Furthermore, Mr. Flynn supports students becoming leaders. He promotes student initiative, student government and student leadership because he believes that everyone has good judgment. "Student leadership is shown by going above and beyond the classroom. I love to do things that give responsibility to students. [They] should have the freedom to study... and the freedom to express themselves and develop their leadership skills." Mr. Flynn likes working with students all the time because they have distinct personalities and help him notice how times are changing.

Mr. Flynn is being recognized at the Annual Awards Dinner for his 50 years of dedication to our beloved school. The dinner will be held on Thursday, November 21 at the Boston Marriott Long Wharf Hotel.

Typhoon Hits the Philippines, Causing Worldwide Effects

MARIEL EHRLICH, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On the early morning of November 8, Typhoon Haiyan hit the east coast of the Philippine archipelago. Locally referred to as Typhoon Yolanda, the "super typhoon" is classified as the Joint Typhoon Warning Center's (JWTC's) highest intensity: Category 5. In fact, NASA experts suggest that it may be the strongest tropical storm ever to have hit land. Winds reached 235 mph and destroyed buildings by tearing off roofs,

tional organizations and private sectors have pledged to aid the devastated islands. Since the storm hit, the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has taken control of compiling reliable information about the disaster. Person Finder, an online collaboration between OCHA and Google, has cataloged over 100,000 records in order to help reconnect those affected by the storm. The international community has organized funds, medical support and other relief efforts to help the islands. Many coun-

tal. By sending some Filipino-American doctors who speak Tagalog, the most common language in the Philippines, volunteers will be able to assist with more than just medical care. Dr. Roberto Coganda says, "They're helping not just with medical support but with logistics [and] giving language lessons." Humanitarian support is likewise coming from the larger Boston community. Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley has directed Roman Catholic parishes throughout the area to take collections during weekend Mass to help victims



THE DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF TYPHOON HAIYAN

breaking windows and hurling objects. In Guiuan, for example, every one of the municipality's 45,000 buildings had its roof blown off. As streets flooded with water, many lucky people were able to find refuge atop buildings and on high ground. This catastrophe, however, left a stunning 5,000 dead. Haiyan swept across central and southern Philippines, missing densely populated Manila in the north, but still spewing damage as far as China and Vietnam. The storm hit land five times, leaving its strongest mark on the city of Tacloban where storm surge water levels reached upwards of 17 feet.

Although the storm only raged for a few hours, the road to recovery could take years. With 13 million people affected and over \$200 million worth of damage to infrastructure and agriculture alone, many countries, interna-

tries, including the United States and United Kingdom, have sent in troops to help distribute food supplies and desperately needed fresh water. Unfortunately, children make up a large contingent of the affected, so concerns of malnutrition persist. Nevertheless, aid has helped to deal with the dead and prevent more losses, while victims from rural areas are being transported to larger cities such as Cebu where they can be treated.

Relief efforts are also coming directly from Boston. Local hospitals, including Massachusetts General Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, have already sent doctors and nurses to the island nation. Within the next two weeks, at least 60 more doctors are expected to arrive in the Philippines, hoping to help the Philippine government reopen a deserted Tacloban hospi-

of the typhoon.

Support for the Philippines can even be found within the Boston Latin School (BLS) community. The Filipino Club and the BLS Red Cross will likely be collaborating to hold a fundraising event for Typhoon Haiyan relief. The event would encompass information about the disaster and performances by BLS groups, as well as possibly provide food. Club Vice President Kara-Jianna Undag says, "If you've ever been to Tet festival, it's basically a smaller version." The school community can still help out by simply raising awareness or donating. Undag feels as though "a lot of people still don't know about [the typhoon]." Luckily, Undag's family in the Philippines is doing okay, as far she knows, and others in the Filipino community have been blessed with similar reports.

News Tidbits

>>> Congratulations to the 2014 Senior Class Officers!

President: Kenneth Cruz

Vice President: Brian Mangilog

Secretary: Allie Kennelly

Treasurer: Joshua Johnson

and to the 2014 National Honors Society Officers!

President: Jake Zhu

Vice President: Michelle Ng

Secretary: Lauren O'Shea

Treasurer: Jason Chen

>>> Guess what? There will be no school Monday, December 23, so you can start your vacation off right! This will be counted as a virtual snow day, so everyone (except the seniors!) will have to make it up at the end of the school year, which now ends on Friday, June 20.

>>> Poet Robert Pinsky came to visit BLS this year for the second time to talk to some of the Humanities classes about the definition of happiness.

Students found it very enlightening.

>>> Have you been wondering why you can't log on to your SIS account? It's because passwords have been reset to students' birthdays (mmd-dyyyy format). If you want to change your password, log on to a school computer with your birthday and it will prompt you to select a new password. After you have chosen a new one, you should be all set to log on to your SIS account.

Editors’ Note

Friends, Romans, countrymen. Sixties who haven’t had to sit through someone awkwardly declaiming this piece yet. Welcome to our first full issue of the 2013-2014 year! We know you’ve been missing your number one student-run newspaper, and we’re back even better than before. We’re really proud of this issue. We feel like there have been a lot of important local stories that have surfaced over the past month, and we’re glad to have written about them. And, since it’s the beginning of the year, there have been lots of exciting developments within the BLS community. This has been a down-to-the-wire issue, but such is the nature of the Argo. After all, what is man?
... But we digress. Within the pages of the November Argo, we have

student opinions on the government shutdown, an enthralling recap of Catching Fire, an impressive showing of BLS student-athletes signing letters of intent to Division 1 schools and a crossword of which we are especially proud. The first person to complete it and come find us (homerooms 125 and 215) will get a special prize. No cheating.
Of course, the Argo wouldn’t be the Argo without some mention of just how late we’ve stayed here on a Friday night. Hey, we’re missing the hypnotist! It’s not like he comes every year or anything.
Shout-out to Mr. Flynn, who has completed 50 years of service to Boston Latin School and is an exceptional advisor. If you see him, give him a hug

from us. We’re sure he’d love it.
If you like what you see, it’s not too late to join the Argo! Remember how we said we’d give you pizza? Just ask all the new Argonauts who’ve joined this year. They’re literally swimming in pizza. It’s painful but delicious. This is just the kind of journalist we are. Painful but delicious.
Well, here we are. We’ve all gotten older. One year closer to our inescapable death. Anyway, hope you all like the issue!
Your Editors- in- Chief,
P.S. We might have lost both our bids for class office, but we still control the media. We are the Fourth Estate. Fear us. Because we’re about to unleash some unbiased, relevant and interesting information. So listen up.

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| 1994 First Place New England Scholastic Press Association Competition | 1996 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award | 1996 Third Place Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition | 1998 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award | 1997 New England Scholastic Press Association Superior Achievement Award |
| 2004 New England Scholastic Press Association Highest Achievement Award | 2007 First Place Greater Boston High School Newspaper Competition Excellence in Sports Writing | 2007 Honorable Mention Greater Boston High School Newspaper Competition Excellence in News Writing | 2011 Honorable Mention Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition Excellence in Forum Writing | |



Boston Latin School

Argo

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Ad Petendum Veritatem. The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

News

The New Mayor in Town

By **MARCELLA CARUSO, I**
AND ANTON XUE, II
News Editor and Contributing Writer

On November 5, Massachusetts House of Representatives member Martin J. Walsh defeated at-large Boston City Councilor John R. Connolly. The race was a tight one; after over 140,000 votes, Walsh took the lead at 52 percent while Connolly trailed just behind at 48 percent. Walsh's victory was well-fought but a surprise. For most of the race, he was considered a political underdog, never placing notably in polls and lacking the power and status of the Connolly campaign (the first to announce its candidacy in early 2013). "Marty was a virtual unknown out of his district," a senior Walsh adviser commented. "We had to send a clear message to the public about his cachet, make a statement to the public of having the je ne sais quoi of a mayor." The campaign worked hard to project Walsh as a strong supporter of the unions and a "man of the people" who is aware of the societal ills that plague Boston. Already with a groundswell of support in his neighborhood of Dorchester, the campaign branched out to other neighborhoods for support, emphasizing a diverse demographic that effectively reflects that of Boston. As one senior advisor put it, "Walsh was not just some 'Dorchester guy' running." After

winning the preliminary election, the Walsh campaign took full advantage of social media and campaign events, attracting women, educators, students and parents with events like the "Women for Walsh" event and the Boston Latin School Mayoral Forum. On Election Day, early figures went well for Connolly, with high turnouts in Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, South End and parts of Charlestown. As the day progressed, polls swung in Walsh's favor. By about 9:30 P.M. on

and later landed at Boston College. At age 21, Walsh joined the Laborers' Local 223 Union, and is currently the union's president. In 1997, Walsh was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, representing the 13th Suffolk District, which is one of the state's most diverse. There, Walsh authored public construction law reforms, helped pass "smart growth district" legislation and supported infrastructure and zoning improvements. Walsh is a founding member of the Neighborhood



WALSH ENJOYING HIS VICTORY WITH SUPPORTERS

House Public Charter School. He is a strong advocate for public schools, has backed annual funding to Boston's alternative schools and has pushed to pass laws that would allow the city to turn underperforming schools into pilot, magnet or in-district charter schools. A strong and early supporter of marriage equality, he calls it his

proudest vote as a legislator. He was initially recognized for his work as the State House leader on substance abuse and recovery issues. He has also served as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Federal Affairs and is currently House chair of the Ethics Committee. In January, Walsh will take his place as the 54th mayor of Boston, replacing the outgoing Thomas M. Menino (the city's longest serving mayor) who was elected in 1993 and is currently in his fifth term.

City Bus Drivers Go on Strike

By **SYLVIE STOLOFF, II & ISABELLE DESISTO, II**
News Editor & Assistant News Editor

"Where's the Bus" —it is a smartphone app that many Boston Latin School (BLS) students use to plan their busy mornings as they scramble to make the MBTA bus or train that will bring them to school on time. But a similar app, introduced this October, called "Where's My School Bus," which applied this concept to yellow school buses, was not met with such praise. It, along with other grievances associated with Veolia, the new company managing their busing contract, incited a mass strike among bus drivers, who picketed bus yards instead of reporting to work. Approximately 600 out of 700 drivers went on strike on Tuesday, October 8, affecting some 33,000 Boston Public School students who ride buses. This left children stranded at bus stops, or stuck at home with no way of getting to school. Some of the luckier children were given rides to school by Boston police officers, and the MBTA allowed free rides for all students. Still, the city reported an attendance drop of ten percent below average, and this crisis forced many families to rearrange their childcare plans for the mornings, thus altering the work days of adults as well as the education of their children.

The new transportation contractor for the city, a company called Veolia, seems to be the root of most bus drivers' grievances. Since taking over their

contracts this past year, Veolia has instituted changes in the bus drivers' health care plan and payroll policies; furthermore, drivers are now required to check in each day before work to make sure they are prepared to operate the buses, instead of simply bringing bus keys home with them after a shift and returning to work the next morning. Another disputed addition was the introduction of the "safety desk," which enables easier communication between dispatchers, bus drivers and other staff in the event of an emergency. Of course, the "Where's the Bus" app played a role too: dubbed as "spy devices" by a scrolling banner on the Bus Drivers' Union website, these GPS trackers allowed parents to view a live map of the location of their child's school bus and were met with abounding criticism.

The afternoon of the strike, Veolia sought legal action against the union to force the drivers back to work. Union leaders claimed the strike was a "wildcat strike." In other words, it was not condoned by union officials. In fact, the union urged the drivers to return to work following the immense protest the strike provoked. Because of union compliance, Veolia was not able to legally terminate the driver strike. Mayor Menino, however, threatened to "pursue all legal action" against bus drivers if they did not return to work the following day, a warning that proved effective the next morning when most of the bus drivers returned to work. A faction of the Bus Drivers' Union, deemed

a "rogue element" by Mayor Menino, was responsible for this illegal strike, and four strikers have since lost their jobs out of five originally suspended.

BLS, too, saw the effects of the strike in school on Tuesday. According to the day's attendance reports from Mr. Lane in the Registrar's office, 127 students were marked absent on October 8, which stands in sharp contrast to 51 on October 7 and 53 on October 9. BLS only has two yellow school buses coming from Charlestown and East Boston, and since MBTA charter buses were not affected by the strike, there is speculation as to how many BLS students (especially seniors) capitalized on the opportunity for what they anticipated to be a free day off. Mr. Lane commented that there were more tardy seniors than usual, many bearing dubious absence notes. Two anonymous seniors disclosed their experiences on October 8: "It was a pleasant day and very worthwhile for all the seniors who took advantage of beautiful weather and what we thought would be an excused absence. We would do it all again if we could," they revealed. Unfortunately for such individuals, absences and tardies unrelated to those two particular school buses, or those of students claiming bus issues but hailing from other neighborhoods, were unexcused. Additionally, some students have expressed discontent that this mass absence coincided with senior class elections, a factor which may have contributed to the final results

Senior Spotlight

Slater Ward



By **MICHAEL SKERRETT, I**
Editor-in-Chief

Who's Slater Ward? What's Slater Ward? Why is Slater Ward? Good question. Allow me to set the stage. The year is 2007. The location is the Rafael Hernandez School. The time is mid-afternoon. A young boy, rosy cheeks, spiky blond hair and glasses, runs down a gymnasium doing laps for gym class. But wait! He doesn't notice a bump at the end of the gym! He trips over it, falls gracefully face first into the wall, breaks his front teeth and his wrists, and has to be taken to the dentist/hospital.

And it was all uphill from there. I first met Slater in kindergarten, where he was rolling with the cool kids and doing rebellious things like skipping lunch to spend more time at recess and skipping class to spend more time at lunch. We've been friends for almost our entire lives, from the days when we would trade baseball cards to missing Holy Name dances in eighth grade because we wanted to play Modern Warfare 2 in my living room. He's been with me through all my weird phases, and has always managed to maintain an air of youthfulness.

Slater will frustrate you, but in a hilarious and endearing way nobody else could possibly pull off. Once in the third grade, (this was pre-accident, mind you) he came to my sleepover birthday party. I wanted to go to bed, but Slater kept lying on his mattress shooting me with a Nerf gun until I cried. Another time, during a fifth grade overnight trip to Thompson Island, he hid behind a table and threw markers at the rest of us while we tried to do a group building activity. It's hard to be angry when you're laughing so hard.

He used to be part of his elementary school's running club, and would often be seen jogging along the outskirts of Franklin Park and running up Bear Hill, wearing only shorts in weather that would freeze a lesser man's blood. Did I mention he's super into Ron Swanson and Dwight Schrute? Yeah. He's that manly.

Often mistaken for a sixie, Slater is, in reality, the life of any party he goes to. He's easy to talk to, and despite his rebellious streak, is one of the kindest people you'll meet. Fun fact: Slater never eats lunch! Now, if that's not personal commitment I just don't know what is. He might not know what he wants to do in the future, but I can promise you he'll be having tons of fun and making friends wherever he goes. And for members of the class of 2014, "Free Slater" is just about as good a senior motto as any.

Slater is the kind of guy who will bail you out of jail. But knowing him, he'll probably be in jail too.

Senior Spotlight

Althea Berg



By ALICE XIAO, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

You might hear this girl before you see her big brown eyes and earthy outfits. By hearing, I mean hearing full out renditions of “Rent”, “High School Musical”, or even Hannah Montana throwbacks. You might even confuse her with an angel—after all, how can anyone sing that well?

But Althea Berg is decidedly human. Down-to-earth, warm and generous, she is the epitome of an awesome person. Born and raised in the same house in Jamaica Plain, a.k.a. Gay P, a.k.a. cradle of hipsters, a.k.a. “where we share which natural herbs alleviate pain during natural birth,” Berg proudly admits that she “wouldn’t want to have been born anywhere else” without the aid of an obstetrician. She is also one of the most multicultural people I know, truly representing her JP clan well. Not only is she half black, but she is also fluent in Spanish because of a year spent abroad with her family in Ecuador.

There must be something in the filtered tap water of the Berg household, because Althea is blessed not only with great looks, but also an amazing voice. A fearless captain of Wolfettes, BLS’ best all-girls acapella group, Berg determinedly dedicates every Tuesday afternoon to arranging their music and leading her girls to superstar status in the music world. This rising star has performed at Jordan Hall and toured the eastern seaboard with Boston Children’s Chorus.

Berg possesses athletic prowess as well. She is a member of the crew team, having rowed on varsity from ninth grade to midway through her junior year. Berg is known for her strong arms, which she has fondly named Thing 1 and Thing 2. She also swam on the swim team from eighth to tenth grade, boldly speeding through the water in perfect form.

Have I mentioned how great Althea is at baking? Well, she is great at baking. I look forward to her gifts of brownies, cookies and cupcakes whenever she decides to grace the world with her cooking excellence. I think the best cupcakes I’ve ever had are her red velvet ones with cream cheese frosting and red sugar sprinkles (and this is a food connoisseur speaking here).

I can honestly say that my life has gotten infinitely better from meeting Althea. She’s always so patient with everyone, and a world class listener to boot. Her kindness is infectious, making me try harder to be a better person every day. She also has a great sense of humor, or maybe she’s just too nice to tell me my jokes are awful. Come to think of it, it might actually be the latter.

Nevertheless, I am sure that Althea will create happiness wherever she goes because she acts like summer and walks like rain, not to mention she listens like spring and talks like June, her birth month. June really represents all that Althea is: warm, fun and beautiful, both inside and out.

News

Bienvenue, Frenchies!

By EMILIO VIDES-CURNEN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The month of October was a busy one at Boston Latin School, but even amidst all the turmoil you probably noticed something different. New faces graced our halls for a few days last month and lovely-sounding words filled the air. These newcomers were not sixties or B-sies you had not seen before; they were the students of the Lycée International des Pontonniers in Strasbourg, France. Here as part of an international exchange partnership between the city of Strasbourg and Boston, they stayed with correspondents from BLS and visited the school to gain proficiency in our native language and to experience American culture.

This French-American exchange program is the brainchild of Madame Lapointe, the French I and French II teacher at BLS. Madame Lapointe had visited Strasbourg as part of another, outside of school, Boston-Strasbourg partnership exchange a few summers ago. While there she met Madame Rachel Audhuy, an English teacher at the Lycée International des Pontonniers. Upon visiting the school in Strasbourg and interacting with its students, Madame Lapointe knew that she had to find a way to connect the students of the Lycée with those of Boston Latin. Madame Audhuy was in total agreement and the Boston-Strasbourg exchange program was born.

The arrival of the French exchange students was greatly anticipated by all BLS correspondents, myself included. After all, it was most of the correspondents’ first exchange experience. Needless to say, it was soon apparent that there was no reason to worry. The students from Strasbourg were incredibly friendly, flexible and open to new experiences. Each day, they would do an activity characteristic to Boston or American culture, such as riding the Duck Boats, watching a Celtics game or shopping at Faneuil Hall.

The exchange students also accompanied their correspondents to school and witnessed a typical day in the life of a



FRENCH EXCHANGE STUDENTS POSING WITH THEIR BLS TOUR GUIDES

BLS student. The administration was extremely flexible and helpful, extending a warm welcome to the visitors. Other BLS students were also gracious, frequently asking questions to the Strasbourgeois. The exchange students were a little surprised at how different BLS is from their own school and were impressed by the amount of work their correspondents completed on a daily basis. In fact, the only main difficulty that arose throughout the exchange for the correspondents was completing their schoolwork while also spending time with their exchange student. Gloribel Rivas (II) admits, “It was difficult to be a good host and balance my academic responsibilities at the same time.” Nevertheless, she, like all the other correspondents, felt that it was well worth it.

The overall benefit of the program was felt by all parties involved. The “Frenchies” got to be immersed in the language of a foreign country and experience another culture. They tried classic American foods like chowder and burgers, even though some of them were caught using a fork and knife. As Aurélien Pasteau, an exchange student, adds, “Every time I eat American food my fingers get shiny. I can see myself

in my fingers.” They were particularly fond of Dunkin’ Donuts (but then again, who isn’t?) and Newbury Street. The American correspondents got the chance to practice their French and learn more about French culture. One of the greatest parts of the program was getting to meet new people and building lasting friendships. Correspondent Brian O’Connell (II) states: “I enjoyed sharing experiences that I do so often, but to which he was so unfamiliar.” All the correspondents and their exchange students really became closer because of this experience.

The Boston-Strasbourg exchange program was by all accounts a success. Both groups of students were exposed to another culture and strengthened their linguistic skills through conversation in foreign languages. In the words of Madame Lapointe, “It is incredibly important to immerse yourself in the [foreign] culture if you want to learn the language.” The educational benefit of the exchange program was apparent by the end, with both sides having grown more comfortable in speaking their non-native language. Perhaps this exchange experience will be the first of more to come at BLS.

Journalist Dan Rea Returns to BLS

By VICKY GRINBERG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students were surprised to learn the impressive routines and tricks of journalism when they attended a talk given by expert Dan Rea on November 13. Rea graduated from the all-boys Boston Latin School (BLS) in 1962. To give students a sense of what BLS was like back when he attended, he asked the audience to guess how many of the thirty students in his freshman homeroom actually graduated. Shockingly, only six made it through to senior year; the rest were “gently guided through the doors and across the street” to Boston English High School. Rea is not as critical of this system as one would imagine: he says it taught him skills for dealing with competition that he later found useful in his career.

Dan Rea has been successful in his career as a television reporter for 31 years, and then a radio show host at “NightSide” at WBZ. Educated at Boston University Law School and the now non-existent Boston State College, Rea combines his talents in law and journalism when conducting interviews. He has interviewed every U.S. president since Gerald R. Ford and counts celebrities like Bill Cosby as his personal friends. Nevertheless, Rea considers his biggest accomplishment to be helping to secure the release of four

victims wrongfully convicted of murder.

Although he is no longer a broadcaster on television, he has moved on to a job he finds equally satisfying: hosting his own radio show. When asked how he chooses his topics, he explained to students that he likes to vary the subject matter of his shows. For example, one night he invited the deans of Harvard University, University of Massachusetts Boston and Boston College to discuss the college admissions process. Another night, he featured the brilliant scientist Brian Greene – “the Albert Einstein of the twenty-first century”—and a man who lives in a Massachusetts swamp, both discussing quantum physics.

Emphasizing the diversity of “NightSide,” Rea described how it attracts listeners and callers not only from around the country, but also from around the world. In one week, for example, his call-in guests included a schoolteacher from Siberia, Russia, who discussed with him the possible correlation between cell phones and brain cancer. Although the material in his show is diverse, it tends to view subject matter through a conservative lens, as he is a self-described “Libertarian.”

Later, Rea asked the audience whether there were any students looking to pursue a career in journalism. For those who raised their hands, he offered

valuable advice: “The two most important elements [in life] are ability and opportunity.” A person can be as smart as Greene, but if he does not take advantage of opportunities, he will not get anywhere, Rea explained. On the other hand, it is impossible for someone to seize an opportunity in a field in which he has little experience or capability.

Rea concluded with some tricks of the trade for the aspiring journalists in his audience. He introduced his method of the “pre-interview,” in which he asks the guest his questions before the camera rolls to ensure that he captures the material he wants to be displayed in his program. This also makes the guests feel comfortable. He points out that while these guests are geniuses in their fields, anyone will feel uncomfortable out of his or her element.

He finished by remarking that there are many types of intelligence, but that in his opinion, the most important one is curiosity. It seems as though his message was heard—some audience members expressed interest in listening to his show following his speech. Another student said that although she might not agree with his opinions, it was “interesting to see his reasoning.” If nothing else, a student said she could see journalism as a much “more realistic and promising career choice than [she had thought it was] before.”

Whitey Bulger Sentenced for Life

By SYLVIE STOLOFF, II &
ISABELLE DeSISTO, II
News Editor & Assistant News Editor

The story of the infamous James “Whitey” Bulger has plagued Boston’s recent history since 1943, when he was first arrested at fourteen years old for theft. Thursday, November 14 played a pivotal role in the continuation of this sad saga when Bulger received two consecutive life sentences in prison for the mob-related crimes he committed throughout his 84 years. He was convicted of racketeering (carrying on illegal business activities), extortion, drug-trafficking, money-laundering and murder (he was linked with a total of 11). Judge Denise Casper found no mitigating factors in his case and was very open in her disgust for this criminal. “The scope, the callousness, the depravity of your crimes is almost unfathomable,” Casper commented, according to a Boston Globe article. Bulger has been ordered to pay \$19.5 million in restitution to his victims and another \$25.2 million to the government. Prosecutors have found some of this money in the form of Bulger’s assets, seizing a \$50,000 diamond Claddagh ring and \$822,000 from his California apartment.

During the trial, Bulger remained sociopathically unmoved. He spoke only two words over the course of the two-day affair: “yes” and “no.” Although legal experts expected some verbal response from the mobster, he declined to participate, telling his lawyers that he considered his trial a sham. Nevertheless, Bulger’s lawyer announced his client’s plea of guilty on all charges, in exchange for leniency toward Catherine Greig, Bulger’s long-term girlfriend. Greig, who is serving a prison sentence of eight years for conspiracy to harbor a fugitive, spent

16 years caring for him in their shared Santa Monica, California apartment. Assuming a false identity, she paid bills, ran errands and secured medications for Bulger, who was on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI’s) Ten Most Wanted list. All complaints and arguments made subsequent to her indictment were rejected by the court of appeals.

For the families of some of the victims, this trial offered something akin to closure, but the damage inflicted by

Roger Wheeler told the Los Angeles Times. Bulger’s own lawyer, Hank Brennan, expressed his own “discontent” following the trial due to the fact that a number of offenders have apparently not been held responsible for crimes like Bulger’s.

Despite the fact that his chances at receiving a reduced sentence appear dismal, Bulger and his lawyers plan to appeal this new sentence on the grounds that the defendant should have had the chance to present an immunity defense because he had been working (in questionably legal ways) with a federal prosecutor, who is now dead. His legal team was also upset that some of those who testified against Bulger were themselves criminals, including a hitman who served time for admitting to an astonishing 20 murders.

Although it could answer some questions, this appeal also has the potential to further harm Bulger victims. On the off-chance that 84-year-old Bulger dies while his appeal is pending, his whole case could be dissolved. Per the “abatement ab initio” law, this could mean that his entire case will be dismissed, including everything associated with it; it would appear in legal records as if this entire scandal had never existed. This could have horrifying effects on Bulger’s victims, who would not only not have their closure but also have their legal restitution revoked. To put it in the words of Suffolk University Law Professor Rosanna Cavallar, such ramifications would be “one more galling twist of the knife” for Bulger victims. Hopefully the process of this criminal’s appeal will be efficient and just, and the families of his victims will get the closure they deserve.



COURT SKETCH OF A GUILTY WHITEY BULGER

Bulger is, of course, irreparable. In an interview with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), Tom Donahue, whose father was killed by Bulger in the 1980’s while giving Bulger’s target a ride home, says of the trial, “It’s bittersweet but it’s a damn good feeling.” According to the Boston Globe, he is relieved that “finally [his] dad can be at peace.”

Surprisingly, this process is not over—Bulger wishes to appeal his sentencing. This could be good news for some victims who still feel there are questions left to be answered, especially concerning the extent to which the FBI was involved with Bulger’s crimes. “It won’t end for me until the FBI and Justice Department come clean...until the public knows the extent of their involvement in this corruption,” victim

BLS Sixies Welcome Yoga Initiative

By CASSIDY GIACOPPO, II
Contributing Writer

This year at Boston Latin School, approximately half of the students in Class VI are participating in a yoga initiative in place of their physical education class. This new program is part of a yoga research study led by a group of scientists from the surrounding area. Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health Institute for Extraordinary Living (IEL), it aims to examine the effects of yoga instruction on middle school and high school students. These researchers are firm supporters of the belief that yoga has the potential to transform our world, and they hope to prove this by investigating its effects on students’ emotional learning skills. Among their main targets are stress management, emotional regulation, self-appreciation, confidence and strong peer relationships.

This team of researchers has brought their program to various other schools in the Boston and Western Massachusetts areas, and more than 1000 students in grades 7-12 have participated in the study since its inception. Here at BLS, thirty-two sixie gym classes have been chosen at random as participants.

They have split the greater part of the school year between two modules: the first extending from October through December, and the second from January to April. Students in these specially-selected classes will practice yoga skills instead of PE. When the second module is over they will continue with their scheduled PE class. Each yoga class is divided between centering and breathing exercises, warm ups, yoga postures, relaxation, integration and/or meditation. Students will become more aware of the connection between their mind and body. Each class aims to create a safe environment where students are able to develop mindfulness, compassion and a sense of community with their peers.

All students of Class VI (with parental consent) took a questionnaire at the beginning of October asking questions relating to the study. At the end of the study, toward the end of March, another questionnaire will be taken to see the effects that yoga had on the students. A research team will compare the responses from students who took yoga with those of students who did not take yoga to examine the effects the program has had. The researchers would like to see whether the yoga intervention had positive effects on factors such as stress,

mood, self-regulation and substance use on the students who participated in the study.

Although the program began a little more than a month ago, students are already able to recognize some of its results. Heather Mulkerin (VI) comments, “yoga has not improved that much thus far, but it has helped me to focus better in classes.” Some students view their yoga class as a break from the hustle and bustle of Boston Latin School. “It’s nice to escape from the stress and pressure of BLS even for just a short period of time. Doing yoga has helped me to relax and it has even helped me to concentrate more on my studies,” adds Tessa Giacoppo (VI). Even the male students in the grade, who might rather be playing sports, can already begin to see the benefits of taking yoga. “Yoga makes my injuries heal faster and it gives me more balance which helps me in playing sports,” says Kyson Cheong (VI). The researchers hope that in collaboration with Boston Latin School, they will be able to decide whether including yoga within the physical education curriculum is an effective way to reduce stress and improve self-regulation. Both would be outcomes much appreciated in the BLS community.

Club Spotlight NUtrons Robotics Team

By JOHN ZHANG, II
Contributing Writer

Interested in robotics? Well, you’re in luck! Here in the Boston area, we have our own robotics team: the NUtrons, which is a chapter of the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition series. It is comprised of students from Boston Latin School, Revere High School and Brookline High School with college mentors from Northeastern University and Wentworth Institute of Technology, and split into teams of around four members. Every year during the beginning of January, each team is given six weeks to construct a robot that completes a challenge specific to that year. Past challenges have included hanging tubes, shooting hoops and throwing Frisbees. Students are guided by mentors who teach them how to overcome the engineering challenges necessary to build a functioning robot. The competition runs from the beginning of January to the end of April. During the first six weeks, students build their robots. They devote the rest of the year to competitions and a few off-season events scattered throughout the year.

Although building robots is the main focus of the program, overall, it aims to encourage students to pursue careers in science and technology. Students will learn valuable skills involving robot programming and design, including methods such as Computer-Aided Design and software like Solid-Works and Java.

Founded in 1998, the NUtrons is one of the oldest and most successful FIRST robotics teams in the New England area and is based in Northeastern University. We have an impressive competition track record. Just last year, we won the Boston Regional Competition and placed second in its counterpart all the way in Florida. In 2001, we were victorious at the World Championships and we’ve been trying hard to win the title again. Chris Hines, an alumnus and current mentor of the team, comments on the success and opportunities afforded by participation in the Nutrons: “I was given a full-tuition scholarship to Northeastern through the [FIRST] program. I had a great experience with FIRST when I was a student participant,” he says.

The FIRST program extends far beyond the Boston area, and the NUtrons is just one of its many chapters. Founded by the inventor of the Segway, it has national recognition and has been endorsed by Stephen Colbert, will.i.am and President Obama! It is currently living out the vision of its founder to “...create a world where science and technology are celebrated.”

Participating in this club requires a large time commitment, but the experience is worth the investment. There are over \$16,000,000 in scholarships that the sponsors of the FIRST organization provide for students who participate in the program. The meetings have already started for this school year, but anyone who wishes to join is still welcome. The meetings take place in the basement of Richards Hall at Northeastern University on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. More information on FIRST and the NUtrons can be found at <http://www.usfirst.org/> and <http://nutrons.com/>, which is still being developed.

FORUM

Casino on the Vineyard

By **ANTONIO ARRENDOL, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Martha’s Vineyard, the ever-popular vacation spot in Dukes County, Massachusetts, seems to be next on the list of potential new casino locations in our state. Undeterred by the refusal of East Boston residents to let a casino into their neighborhood, the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans in the Martha’s Vineyard’s town of Aquinnah are determined to open a casino on their tribal land, and claim to already have federal approval. Residents of Martha’s Vineyard are generally split on whether or not they agree on the construction of a casino on their island, and the general stigma that is associated with casinos has raised a red flag in the eyes of many residents. As arguments are made on both sides about whether or not it is legal to put a casino on the island continue to broil, the question in the back of everyone’s mind is: “Is this casino going to hurt the island?” The answer, thankfully, is no.

The construction of a casino on Martha’s Vineyard presents a number of benefits for the small island. One benefit the casino would bring would be an increase in tourism and commerce. Martha’s Vineyard has been a vacation destination of wealthy people for a long time, and with not much else to do on the island, a casino would be an excellent spot at which all those rich tourists can spend their money (not to mention have some fun). Also, the casino would provide stability for those on the island who are not quite so affluent. Unemployment has been on the rise in the United States, and Martha’s Vineyard is no exception to

the trend. Construction of the casino would add not only short-term work for blue-collar workers, but long-term jobs for those who would work in the casino. The casino would be open all year, ensuring more than the usual short-lived bursts of work residents get during tourist season. The winter off-months, however, also present another

live on Martha’s Vineyard for about four months on average (during tourist season). Shockingly enough, year-round residents in the winter months often get so bored that they turn to drugs and alcohol, developing what is called “end-of-the-line syndrome,” with around 31 percent of residents suffer from. Martha’s Vineyard is

on how well the casino is run. That is, provided those opposed to the casino see past the stigmas associated with casinos.

One such stigma is the cliché “hive of scum and villainy” attitude toward areas with casinos. In pop culture, casinos are often seen as catalysts for other kinds of crime, including theft, murder, prostitution and other illegal acts. Many studies, including a 2012 study done by researchers at the University of Nevada, however, show that there is little evidence that casinos are related to increased crime rates. Also, the same fear felt by a community when the threat of a Walmart looms over it arises: won’t it take revenue and customers away from local businesses? As previously mentioned, there is already a dangerously low amount of things to do in Martha’s Vineyard, so there are not many other businesses that stand to lose much in the ways of revenue—at least in the eight months out of the year when Martha’s Vineyard is missing 75% of its inhabitants.

As the battle goes on about whether there can be a casino on the island in the first place, I can only hope the casino is approved. Wouldn’t you as a Bostonian enjoy not having to travel across the country to find a good casino? Being in the scenic location of Martha’s Vineyard certainly does not hurt either, and it would cut travel costs immensely. Coupled with how much it would benefit the people, I look forward to the casino’s completion, hopefully in the near future.



A TYPICAL CASINO TABLE

problem for the island’s citizens, one the casino might not be able to cure, but could certainly help alleviate.

Martha’s Vineyard’s population situation is an odd one, and gives rise to unique problems within the community. The population of the island during the summer is five times larger than the population during the winter, because the island is almost entirely dependent on tourism as its main source of income and activity, and the majority of the island’s residents are rich enough to afford two houses. Thus they only

so boring that with 75 percent of its residents gone, one out of any three residents is likely to have consumed excessive amounts of alcohol just to relieve the boredom, and thus acquired an addiction. Additionally, another 14 percent suffers from depression, much more than the national average of 8 percent. Coupled with the increasing joblessness, this makes for a dangerous problem, one which the casino cannot solve, but can certainly remedy. The casino would add livelihood, and even rake in winter tourists depending

Limits on Internet Usage Time

By **MINH TRINH, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

How long do you spend on the Internet daily? Doctors now recommend that Internet usage time, for entertainment purposes, be limited to two hours daily and that laptops and smartphones be kept from the bedroom.

These recommendations are part of a new policy from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Though the recommendations will most likely be met with the rolling of eyes, the influential pediatricians group insists that unrestricted media may lead to serious consequences.

According to Dr. Victor Strasburger, adolescent medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico and lead author of the policy, the Internet is linked to violence, cyber-bullying, obesity, lack of sleep and many Aother problems. Though it is not a major cause of these problems, many people, specifically parents, are unaware of the impact that the Internet and other forms of media have on children.

This policy is aimed towards children that use Internet-connected devices. It is an expansion to the academy’s earlier policy of limiting TV and entertainment time to two hours daily. Similarly, under the new policy all forms of entertainment on the Internet will be limited. Online home-

work is the only exception. This policy follows a recent survey taken by the advocacy group, Common Sense Media, which found that, compared to two years ago, twice as many kids are using mobile media, thus spending three times as long on devices.

limitations from schools and parents, as well as more government research.

I, however, am against limiting Internet usage time to two hours. Time spent on the Internet and other forms of media isn’t “excessive.” The Internet is not all frivolous nonsense; it is also a

information on what they learned in school, or extra help for a subject they are struggling with in school. Online courses for various subjects are available on the Internet. Some schools across the nation are even using the Internet as a primary tool to teach children, using a website known as “Khan Academy.” In this scenario, kids are exposed to media for much longer than two hours. Yet, it is for a good cause. This is an example of how the Internet may be used for education.

The Internet is also a means of communication in this increasingly digital society. As the world becomes more and more technologically advanced, as well as more reliant on digital media, it is essential that we begin teaching kids how to use the Internet from an early age. Email, texting and social media, are all forms of communication that people use on a daily basis. Is it different? Yes, but people nowadays do not meet in person or call when they want to exchange information. The news is now available on the Internet, as well as on paper and TV. Articles are being published online, as more and more people get their news from the Internet rather than from TV or newspapers (sorry Argo). These are just two examples. The world is becoming reliant on digital media, and limiting Internet usage time for children at this age would just be crippling them for the future.



EXCESSIVE INTERNET USAGE MAY BE HARZARDOUS

Additionally, 75 percent of all families with children up to the age of eight have a mobile device at home, and 38 percent of children under two have used a device. A report also states U.S. children spend on average seven hours using media daily. Doctors believe this excessive usage is over-stimulating them. They hope this policy will lead to more

means of communication.

It is often used to reinforce education. Though the policy excludes online homework, the Internet has so much more potential, more than just “online homework.” Many students look towards the Internet to reinforce what they learn in the classroom, whether it be help with homework, more

FORUM

Jimmy Kimmel Controversy

By **EDWARD HU, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Over the November 9-10 weekend, over a 1000 people picketed at the Burbank ABC headquarters. Nearly a month earlier, a petition passed on We the People, the White House's petition site because of Jimmy Kimmel's late night show. Kimmel aired a controversial "Kids' Table" segment in which a 6-year-old suggested that we "kill everyone in China" in order to avoid paying off our rising national debt. This drew both national and international criticism. The online petition condemning this "racial hatred" quickly hit the 100,000 signatures requirement and the Chinese foreign ministry demanded a formal apology from the TV station. This is a complete overreaction to a simple and harmless joke. This hate on ABC, and Kimmel by connection, is utterly unfounded. Firstly, Jimmy Kimmel is a comedian. It is his job to tease, mock and make fun of sensitive topics. His critics must consider his vocation when criticizing him for racism. They are taking a statement, which was meant to be taken in jest, far too seriously. Maybe he did go a little too far this time, but he surely does not deserve the ire of the entire nation (or two) for it. It is obvious to anyone watching the show that the statement was meant to be a ridiculous notion that was laughed at and to quickly fade into obscurity. Yet, by

passing a petition forcing the government to investigate it, the exact opposite is happening.

Additionally, the petition is completely, absolutely and thoroughly ridiculous. The petition critiques "ABC's management" for "[promoting] racial hatred," and even goes as far as to compare the network to "Nazi Germany." First of all, the definition of

made from the perspective of a naive 6-year-old who does not understand the potential consequences of this action. Secondly, comparing ABC to Nazi Germany is a drastic underrepresentation of the atrocities committed during World War II, a far more serious matter altogether. These issues aside, however, the fact that the White House has to take the time to acknowl-

in jest, that may offend others completely belies the entire basis on which this country was founded. The first amendment to the Constitution, the first article of the Bill of Rights, protects the American people's "freedom of speech." It does not protect a freedom of speech that is completely inoffensive and consistent with current social ideals.

These restrictions, by definition, contradict the idea of freedom. I acknowledge that there are certain limits to this freedom of speech—if a person pulls out a gun and threatens to shoot you, he should be arrested, just as a person who walks into an airport and says, "I have a bomb," even if he is joking, should be tackled and thoroughly searched. But outside the realm of private and public safety, I believe the people of this country deserve the freedom to express their thoughts, as offensive and unorthodox as they may be, with carefree abandon. Conversely, their critics also deserve the same freedom to criticize and critique as they see fit. And that is exactly what I am

doing. Although I may completely disagree with the hatred against Kimmel, and have now written an entire article criticizing the proponents of this view, I wholeheartedly accept and even advocate the underlying framework behind their argument. I support the freedom that this country offers to freely speak and critique, to counter-speak and counter-critique.



JIMMY KIMMEL SITS DOWN WITH THE KID

racism is problematic. Even if this statement was meant to be taken seriously, killing all of China to avoid paying off our national debt is not an action of "racial hatred"; we are not discriminating against the Chinese because they are Chinese, and we do not believe we are superior to them at all. The statement is a purely and comedically economic one,

edge (and possibly investigate, as the petition states) this matter only places even more weight and emphasis on a joke that was meant to have none, a joke that was never meant to hold the public spotlight for more than a couple of days at most.

Lastly, and most importantly, the idea that people should not be allowed to express statements, even

A New Type of Education Reform

By **CRYSTAL SUN, IV**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When high school students across the country of a school are showing evident signs of exhaustion, they are being rejected the chance to perform in an optimal learning environment. The education system should focus on what is best for it's students; an earlier start time is counterproductive to a school's goal of creating a setting where students are content and also learn. A lack of sleep ultimately deprives students of reaching their full potential and ability to thrive in a supportive learning environment. A simple solution is a later school start time.

It's recommended that teenagers should get eight to ten hours of sleep a day; they should also go to bed and wake up later than adults. However, only eight percent of high school students are getting the proper amount of sleep. This shocking number is a testament to the fact that serious flaws exist in schools across America. While many might attribute this outrageously low number to teenagers' inability to get work done in a timely matter, it is forgotten that sleep deprivation isn't a matter of going to bed early. Multiple reasons allow one to conclude that this issue extends far beyond the reach of an individual's personal habits - a study conducted by the pediatric sleep clinic in Hasbro Children's Hospital shows that biological changes in a teenager's body (an effect of puberty) changes their circadian rhythms, which results in a shift in wake times. Briefly, this means that the average high-schooler has difficulty falling asleep before 11 pm. Additionally, the life of a teenager has greatly expanded to include more

responsibilities than ever before. Many underestimate the complexity of a high school student's day- they struggle to complete homework, work at jobs, maintain social lives, and participate in after school activities. Naturally, it's understandable that life's demands eat away more than eight hours of one's life outside of school.

Multiple repercussions result from an inadequate amount of sleep, such as depression, low grades, and a lower attendance rate. Additionally, teens have trouble concentrating in school, which defeats the purpose of attending. Behavior is also heavily affected by sleep deprivation- kids feel irritated at being dragged out of bed and outraged at the disruption of sleep, which is meant to be a restorative process. Perhaps the biggest consequence of sleep deprivation is a comprised level of health and immune system, which is simply too important to be neglected by the education system.

Conversely, the results of a delayed school start time have been extremely positive and take into consideration what is best for students. In Edina Minnesota, high school start times changed from 7:20 AM to 8:30 AM. According to studies led by Kyla Wahlstrom, director of the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement at the University of Minnesota, the change improved attendance, decreased tardiness, allowed teens to develop a higher concentration-level,

left students less depressed, and reduced the number of visits to school nurses. Parents also noticed improvements in their children's life at school, with an overwhelming majority of 92% supporting the later start. When a community in a urban environment with a low income population in Minneapolis (in contrast to Edina's wealthy suburban populace) also decided to delay the high school start time to 8:40, a five year study showed that the new schedule "statistically improved graduation rates because kids who had been sleeping through their first hour were not short on credits," Wahlstrom said. "When kids were short on credits, they would

say, 'I'm going to drop out of school.'" These two examples demonstrate that no matter the income level or diversity of a school community, having a later start time is beneficial and produces substantial results that are advantageous in creating an optimal setting for students to learn.

Therefore, it is essential that school systems across America understand the priorities and goals of school. Education, health, and safety are fundamental aspects of creating a successful learning environment, and with one pillar holding students back from their full potential, the entire foundation of a good school crumbles.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS AT BLS

Community Music Center of Boston offers private music lessons after school in the music wing at Boston Latin School. CMCB's satellite lesson program has partnered with BLS for over a decade and welcomes students on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, French horn, violin, viola, double bass, guitar, electric bass, and percussion. Lessons are offered five days a week and can be scheduled through CMCB's registration office.

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FORUM

China’s Relief Aid Less than IKEA’s

By **STANLEY WONG, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last Friday, Super Typhoon Haiyan, possibly the strongest storm in recorded history, ravaged the Philippines. The storm, so far responsible for around 2000 deaths, was 3.5 times stronger than Hurricane Katrina. Current estimates of the United Nations and the Philippine government show that 620,000 people have been displaced from their homes. In Tacloban, the hardest hit city, debris from obliterated homes littered the streets and a weakened wall has recently collapsed, killing eight people after the storm. With such egregious conditions, I believe it is the responsibility of the international community to aid countries in need.

Indeed, work is underway to distribute aid in the Philippines. Japan has pledged \$10 million, Britain \$16 million and the United States \$20 million and a carrier escort group for logistic support (rescue planes, transport helicopters and a water distilling plant). How much, however, has China, the regional power, second-largest economy and the world’s most populous nation, pledged to give? It pledges to give the insultingly small sum of \$1.6 million. To further infuriate the international community, the Peace Ark, a Chinese ship designed for disas-

ter relief remains stagnant in its home port. Even IKEA, a Swedish furniture company, pledged to give \$2.7 million. Relations between Manila and Beijing have soured over the years because Benigo Aquino, President of the Philip-



THE DEVASTATION OF SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN

pines, has refused to succumb to China’s aggressive territorial claims in the South China Sea. Many users of the Chinese social media service, Weibo, were nationalistic, standing by their claims over the islands. “They have committed to many wicked deeds, and God can tolerate it no longer... I hope [the government] won’t

take our taxpayers’ money and donate it those Philippine dogs,” said one user. China has not always been so parsimonious with humanitarian aid. Two months prior, China gave \$4.9 million in relief supplies to Pakistan after an

China is rarely a first responder when it comes to international disaster relief. The billions of dollars that the government does invest in developing countries are usually followed by business contracts. With the damage now permanent, the Chinese government, which withholds critical humanitarian aid because of territorial disputes, is viewed as mean-spirited by the global community as it punishes the Philippines for “bad behavior.” Humanitarian aid can ease political tensions, as seen with the improved relations through “Earthquake Diplomacy” between Greece and Turkey after decades of hostility that stemmed from land claims. I am certain that China could learn a thing or two from this breakthrough.

The Chinese media says it wants a “de-Americanized world,” but to where will the world turn for disaster relief with China at the helm? China has missed an opportunity to show the world that it is a responsible power. Perhaps China should keep its money and invest in a public relations firm, which would help remedy the nation’s miserly image. Politics aside, it is the Filipinos who have been abandoned. Aid has not reached people in the more remote areas despite the support from the international community. It is our responsibility to help.

Stop Snooping Now

By **KEVIN GAO, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the recent revelations from Edward Snowden about the expanse of the National Security Agency’s collection of communications metadata, we all must now live with the knowledge that every message we send, every call we make, is being tracked by the government. These actions

are all taken in the name of national security, to protect the citizens. The harms of such pervasive surveillance, however, far outweigh any benefits that such a massive dragnet could pose.

The justification that the National Security Agency (NSA) uses for its massive surveillance and collection of communications metadata is the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act (FISA). This act gives federal agencies the authority to collect communications data on foreign nationals and “agents of foreign powers” in the interest of national security. FISA was not, however, intended to allow for the mass collection of communications data on United States (U.S.) nationals and citizens. “Metadata” is the term for the data regarding information that is regularly collected by internet service providers and utility companies, such as the internet sites you visit. In addition, the NSA collects email addresses and subject lines of those emails, though whether their content is recorded is still unclear.

Supporters of this policy point out that the goal of the surveillance is to maintain our security and our lives—they state the number of lives saved by surveillance outweighs any inconveniences it may cause. And it is an inconvenience so small, apparently, that we did not even notice it until NSA defector Edward Snowden revealed the enormous extent of the surveillance to the public. A figure that supporters often cite to support the efficiency of the NSA is that “54 terrorist attacks [were] thwarted” as a result of the surveillance. This efficacy, however, is exaggerated. When Senator Patrick Leahy pressed NSA director Keith Alexander

about the true effectiveness of the data collection, he posed the question: “They weren’t all plots and they weren’t all foiled, were they?” Alexander responded with a simple “yes.” In fact, only 13 of the plots even involved the U.S., and it is unclear exactly how many plots were indeed “foiled.”

Our greatest loss to this extensive government surveillance is our own privacy. To think that our lives are being lain bare before a giant, unblinking monitor resembles something out of an Orwellian novel. And the scariest part is our own ignorance: we carry on with our daily lives barely giving thought to the fact that every keystroke we enter, every email or text that we send culminates in a loss of free speech. In short, the surveillance by the NSA causes people to suppress their own opinions and thoughts in fear that they could write something that might cause them to be put onto a “watch list” and be blacklisted, which entirely defeats the purpose of the First Amendment. According to a joint study done by the Farkas Duffett Research Group and PEN America, which revealed that the NSA had such open access to everyone’s communications, 24 percent of writers have avoided certain topics in phone or email and six percent have avoided writing or speaking about a certain topic because they were aware that they were being watched. If this is the case, how are we, as a society fueled by innovative ideas, supposed to move forward if we are afraid to even express ourselves?

To be sure, the NSA does an excellent job of creating and maintaining the international intelligence that is essential to our security. But in effect, the costs of doubttable and limited efficacy are too high. What we are ultimately left with is a choice, a choice between a free nation and a suppressed one, between privacy and exposure. And regardless of what cost at which freedom of thought, speech and action may come, there is no dilemma—we must always hold our constitutional and individual rights first.

Drones vs. Terrorism

By **CHRISTOPHER KIM, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As we continue to thrive in the age of technology, we should consider the benefits and impact of our technological developments. We do not directly ponder these questions about technology that include smartphones, elevators, washing machines, ATMs and other innovations that give comfort. For warfare technologies, however, we definitely should think about all aspects before putting such tools to use. One of the recent technologies for warfare is causing a discrepancy on whether drones are the ultimate tool for spying on and killing notorious enemies or the ultimate weapon for the massacre of innocent people while keeping the attacker out of sight.

Drones, as some of you may know, are also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that are either controlled by a remote control or autonomously by computers with sizes now varying from that of a hummingbird to a small fighter jet that is able to carry one pilot.

Drones have given the military a huge advantage in warfare in the twenty-first century. Not only can they fly unmanned, but they are now also capable of carrying loads for purposes of both hunting and killing. The growing popularity could be caused by the fact that drones are much cheaper to manufacture and purchase than the traditional military aircraft requiring pilots. Drones can also remain in the air for long periods of time while surveilling an area. Supporters of armed drones argue that they are capable of identifying terrorists and enemies more accurately and have increased control over where and when to attack. Since drone pilots have full surveillance available to them, they can attack more precisely than ground troops or conventional pilots can. They even claimed that after a missile has been fired, it can be diverted if an innocent person wanders into range. Drones are prominently given the access to more information by being able to pass through radars of enemy territories that

usually will catch approaching pilots. Opponents of armed drones claim that if unmanned systems dominate the methods of warfare, then undertaking armed attacks will look too easy and will make war more likely. Drones also have been highly responsible for the large numbers of civilian casualties due to attacks on only a handful of terrorists. Personally, I think that these relatively small aircrafts are carrying too much luggage that will eventually cause the mass destruction of innocent people’s homes and families just for the sole purpose of eliminating a few terrorists. Now, we come to the question: Who is deciding for these people to be killed? The answer is that our government is deciding and at some points, the government definitely has some moral issues to consider. Should innocent people around these terrorists be involved? How can we prevent such things? Can a new weapon help cope with this problem? So far, drones have given the ability for troops to be safer when employing unmanned systems; it is not evident, however, that the opposing side’s innocent civilians are safer. Drone pilots do not have to worry about such matters since a majority of them have grown up playing computer games based on warfare. If you take a look at a picture of their control center, it is simple—a comfy chair, monitor screen and controls. Yes, for you folks, it is like playing Call of Duty in reality except you only get one shot at it. Essentially, controlling a drone is like playing a video game and there is no firsthand experience of the terrors of war, only on-screen blood and explosions. As we continue to use such tools, I think that life will start to become meaningless if everything about war turns into a virtual game when the controllers feel indifferent toward suffering innocents while in reality the innocents suffer every single day in constant fear of continuous attacks. With this said, we must look into alternative ways to eliminate terrorists without hurting the innocents around them and causing the world to remain in terror.

FORUM

Which Party should be blamed for the government shutdown?

Republican

By Terry Ni, III
Assistant Forum Editor

No one wants the government to shut down. Not only does it result in shame, but also in loss of jobs, personnel and basic functions. The Republicans have yet again conveyed themselves as a party against the interests of the nation as a whole. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has long been approved. Not only is the Affordable Care Act logical, but it also benefits most people either directly or indirectly. The Republicans need to understand that with every change comes anxiety; new ideas must be given a chance. First of all, the Affordable Care Act makes sense. Similar systems have been in place in Europe for some time. We have so much freedom in America, yet until now, many of us cannot be in good health unless we can afford health insurance. Medicare has already been proven to be helpful to senior citizens. Similarly, the Affordable Care Act will benefit the population as a whole. 105 million Americans do not gain any lifetime limit on coverage, children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied, new jobs are being created in the health care industry in order to provide more health care and workers are now insured. Even those that do not directly gain under the act because they already have health insurance will not need to indirectly pay for the uninsured people that go to the emergency room anymore. As a great bonus, our nation’s deficit will be reduced over time. Then, why the holdup in the first place? It should not exist. Republicans claim that the law would hurt employers and make them less willing to hire because employers are now required to provide health care, but what may hurt one industry a little benefits another. They are missing the big picture, yet stalling the entire country. The new required health insurance creates new jobs in the health care sector of our economy so that America gains as a whole. Additionally, studies show that healthier people are happier and more productive. The employers may have to pay more with each hired worker, but they also earn more from the increased output of each worker and gain a better work environment.

Then Republicans move to specifics: the medical device tax sends jobs overseas. If the government shuts down every time someone disagreed with a tax that applied to only a certain group, it would never get a chance to run at all. The government, in that case, might as well be abolished. Even the original argument against the tax, however, was unjustified. The Republicans fail to recognize that we are not separate, but rather a part of the world. Other countries becoming richer would lead to better product quality and better communications, interactions and trade. We fight for equality and unity, and this is a chance to get a little closer. The situation is a win-win; we can help the world (which we Americans seem to love trying to do), yet we can also maintain the benefits of health care in our own country.

The Republicans also propagated more false rhetoric that the costly regulations, rules and mandates of the Affordable Care Act are increasing the cost of health insurance. The regulation, however, is absolutely essential to make it work for now. Once the Act is in effect a little longer and settles down, policies can only get better. Nothing starts out perfect; otherwise, there would have been no point in passing any acts or amendments at all since the founding of the United States. Every change comes with uncertainty, and if people want change for the better, they need to embrace it in all of its glory. One would think that a political party, of all groups, understands that fact. Yet the Republicans cannot seem to be able to handle anything new.

It is evident that the Affordable Care Act can help rein in the ever-rising costs of health care coverage through expanding access. The Act was designed to have many benefits, but even consequences that seem like losses are simply gains disguised in another area. America has always been a country of revolutionary change. We have never been afraid to implement something new. While the Democrats were securing the health of the people and promoting the growth of the nation, the aggressive right-wingers were fighting against this change. Now, the Republican Party must ask itself: did it need to cause a 16 day shutdown to obstruct American prosperity?

Democrat

By Richard Fu, I
Staff Writer

Several weeks ago, a two-week federal government shutdown spawned the loss of thousands of jobs, the closure of federal facilities and the loss of two billion dollars in revenue. Although critics were quick to point fingers, one side—the Democrats—was the clear initiator of the quickly escalating debacle. The Republicans should not be blamed for this shutdown because the Democrats adamantly refused to negotiate with the Republicans over Obamacare.

The Republicans want to use the budget negotiation to force the president and the Democratic party to reverse Obamacare, asserting that the negatives of the act outweigh the positives. This act overextends our current medical support network with millions of dollars that were formerly allotted to uninsured patients and also to places of the medical system in a government agency, which are more inefficient than private industries. The inefficiency will increase health care costs in the future.

The Republican Party’s arguments are well-founded. The website, www.healthcare.gov, would have allowed millions of users to sign up for health care. It was, however, broken—the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on its design and implementation apparently failed to resolve several simple, mechanical issues. Due to faulty integration and lack of testing, the website was incapable of handling the number of people who logged in, thus preventing them from signing up. The inability of the Democrats to set up a mere website is absurd. How can they be trusted to execute future projects, let alone preside over their visions of universal health care?

Another major fiasco for the Democrats is that health costs for many Americans are higher than what is actually promised by Obamacare, which affirmed that all Americans who already had health insurance should be able to keep their current plan; this was not the case. One of the components of the act requires people to have insurance that meets the minimum federal guideline.

This is a problem because some of the existing health insurances were found to be below federal standards. As a result, insurance companies are forced by the government to drop those policies and to force the buyers to upgrade to a new insurance policy that is much more expensive. By doing so, many people will not have the required health insurance by the beginning of 2014. Are Democrats actually criticizing the opposing party when they also are guilty of harming America themselves? The betrayal made by the Democratic Party violates its pledge for universal, affordable health care. Affordable Care Act? More like Un-Affordable Care Act.

The success of Obamacare will largely depend on when the website www.healthcare.gov will be operational and on the number of young, healthy adults who will sign up for this plan. Without these two factors, Obamacare has a very large chance of collapsing in on itself because, without the website, people cannot sign up for health care, and without young people participating in the system, the prices will skyrocket in order to cover only those with medical issues. In addition to skyrocketing prices, it is unknown if our existing medical facilities can handle millions of more patients. How does this present the Democrats in a positive light? Due to the number of unaccountable variables that the Democrats failed to take into account, the implementation of this plan was much too risky—especially since it concerns “universal health care.” The negligence demonstrated by Democrats in factoring in these obvious concerns was too egregious of an error.

America, compared to other developed countries, has spent too much money of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on health care. A solution, however, has yet to be agreed upon by the majority of the American people and its representatives. Recently, over 30 Democrats have joined the Republicans to pass a new legislation in the House of Representatives to remedy Obamacare, allowing people who have low-cost health care policies to keep them as they are. What does this say about the Democrats, the “heroes” in the government shutdown crisis, who are split within their own party?

With all this mentioned about Obamacare, the Republicans’ concerns about the continuation of the program are fully justified. Furthermore, through this incident, the Democrats show that they are also not free of blame, and that is why the Republicans should not be blamed for the shutdown.

Forum Question

Which Party should be blamed for the government shutdown?



The government shutdown itself was the fault of both parties not wanting to co-operate. and compromise. It wasn’t any of the parties fault, but rather the individuals.
- Lian Parsons, I



Republicans, because they were against Obamacare and weren’t willing to compromise. They were more concerned with blaming Obama than making any changes for the people.
- Fiona Fitzgerald, II



It’s sad that they come of to a consensus. If you are going to run a country then you should try to agree for the better of the country.
- Marc Pierre, III



None of them were able to compromise. An agreement involves two sides and if both sides can’t agree then its both of their faults.
- Randy Chen, IV



Republicans fault because Obamacare is affordable for everyone. It’s around 35 dollars a month and Its necessary for dental or emergency reasons. Canada has free health care for everyone and we Americans don’t.
- Melody Li, V



I think that the Republicans were too aggressive with Obama, he’s trying to help people and the Republicans are attacking him because they don’t want to lower their taxes.
- Alex Dimanno, VI

Mackle, More Please

By **ISABEL ALEXANDER, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sporting a Celtics jersey, skinny jeans and his signature partially shaved hairdo, 30-year-old rapper Macklemore stood atop a rising platform with his back to the audience. An hour earlier, 12,000 fans had seeped into the stadium, eager to see the face behind some of 2013’s top-earning songs. Now, to the increasing roar of fans and stately piano riff of “Bom Bom,” the man atop the platform leapt onto the stage in an explosion of fireworks and blinding lights. Macklemore had descended.

The rapper, however, was not always on top. Before his 2013 hit single “Thrift Shop,” which peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 in nine different countries, sold a total of seven million copies and garnered more than 400 million views on YouTube, Macklemore was simply an aspiring artist by the name of Ben Haggerty. Born and raised in Seattle, Haggerty started writing rhymes, dubbed as “parental advisory music” at age fourteen, and was nicknamed “Mocklimore” by disbelieving friends. In college, the amateur rapper received a MySpace friend request from someone who would change his life: soon-to-be producer, best friend and sidekick Ryan Lewis. Rather than go the traditional record label route, the duo opted instead to work on their full-length debut independently, relying on their own business sense, word of mouth and on-line buzz. Their 2012 album *The Heist*, which reached number one on iTunes within hours of being released with no mainstream promotion or support, laid the foundation for Macklemore’s TD Garden performance. What better song to kick off the night than “Ten Thousand Hours,” an homage to the

hard work and practice necessary for achieving success.

One would think that such a rapid rise to fame would breed arrogance or emotional disconnect. In this case, it was just the opposite. “I was surprised by his humility,” says Caroline Berens (I), a recent Macklemore convert. “He was unbelievably down-to-earth and relatable. Unlike most musicians I’ve seen perform, he spent a lot of time speaking to the audience. You could tell that



AUDIENCE MEMBERS AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF MACKLEMORE AND RYAN LEWIS

even after his massive success, he still genuinely appreciates fans coming out to watch him perform.” Sure enough, in the crowd that night were Macklemore’s Bostonian grandparents and 37 other relatives.

Whether they recognized their little Ben Haggerty in his avant-garde fur coat and ringleader costume is a different story. As the rapper transitioned into his frisky “Thrift Shop,” “Can’t Hold Us” and “White Walls,” many fans were reminded of why they fell in love with Macklemore in the first place. In an age when most singers strive for infallibility, Macklemore’s daringness, creativity and ability to make fun of himself is both refreshing and contagious. At the concert, “twelve thousand people rallied behind acceptance and individuality,” commented devout fan Zoe Dinneen (I). “Macklemore has such a strong stage presence, and I think that

stems from his commitment to being himself and letting his fans be real too.”

For long-time supporters like Brian Mangilog (I), who listened to Macklemore before his “Thrift Shop” debut, the rapper’s appeal instead lies in his “firm understanding and promotion of social issues.” Among the rapper’s more serious songs are consumerism-attacking “Wings,” LG-BT-rights plea “Same Love” and self-reflective “Otherside,” which chronicles the rapper’s drug addiction and alcoholism. “Every day I would smoke weed and drink, and my creativity would completely stop,” attested Macklemore onstage. Rather than glorify substance abuse, as so many other artists do, this rapper warns fans of its dangers.

By no means, however, was the concert laden with seriousness or grief. After empowerment speeches and social statements, Macklemore would switch to a more carefree tone — for instance, improvising a whole new set of lyrics to “Make the Money.” After his cellist, violinist and two-piece horn section infused “My Oh My” with authentic flair, and after Mary Lambert’s solo in “Same Love” brought some close to tears, the rapper would transition to goofy anecdotes of skinny-dipping in the Charles River and having breakfast with Snoop Dogg. Finally, after fourteen songs and three encores, Macklemore plunged into his catchy finale “And We Danced,” which, as the name suggests, made the whole stadium vibrate with movement. Through a contagious beat, silly lyrics and relentless energy, Macklemore aptly summed up the night of November 8, 2013.

We had a really really really good time.

The First Improv Show of the Year

By **EDEN BEKELE, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Who doesn’t like to laugh? Who doesn’t like to laugh right after school on a Friday? Laugh away all your BLS stress at the infamous improv show. The Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe held their first show of the year on Friday, November 8, and if you weren’t there, you did in fact miss out on hilarity. The 3 P.M. show was three dollars for students and five dollars for adults, and for those of you who prefer not to pay for things, the 7 P.M. show was free for students! So really, there is no excuse for you not to attend the improv show. And don’t fret, there will be plenty more in the future, so keep your eyes peeled and ears open for any news of the next show. We all know that BLS life is hard, even without your friends making it harder by being competitive 24/7. The older you get here, the more competitive things become, especially when college is in sight. Even the younger kids aren’t

exempt from this behavior; it’s in our blood as soon as we enter the school. It spreads to our heads and everyone has to be better. I think the improv team did a great job of emulating this competitive spirit to start their show, picking out a girl from the audience



YELLOW SUBMARINE IMPROVISERS PERFORMING IN THE BLACK BOX THEATER.

to challenge Connie Chang (II) to a race. On your mark, get set, block. As the innocent audience member tried to race to the end of the finish line, Connie pushed her out of the way and won. “The BLS Spirit” is what they called it. To recap all of the great reasons why you should be checking out the next improv show: it is reasonably priced, hilarious and relatable. Also,

the troupe tries to make the show as interactive as possible. Often, they ask for suggestions for character traits or scenarios from the audience. Audience participation adds to the fun of the show. For example, during their Chatroulette skit, an audience member suggested “nuns,” and they nailed it. Acting as nuns who had never been on the Internet before and praying every time they saw something “evil,” they had the 7 P.M. crowd laughing hysterically when the sisters were faced with the seven deadly sins. Each time the sisters hit the

imaginary “next” button, it seemed that they couldn’t escape evil on the Internet. Let’s face it, who doesn’t like witty humor, especially when it hits so close to home with things like school and the Internet? We as teens can all relate to the improv troupe’s skits. Five stars to the group for never sinking, but then again, it is a submarine.

Senior Spotlight Jill Lydon



By **PAM RIOLES, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Second only to Wake Up The Earth Day or “Jamaica Plain’s Christmas,” May 20 is the most important holiday in Jamaica Plain, marking the birth date of our savior, Jill Lydon. From her throne atop Moss Hill, she can be heard crooning ballads like “Landslide,” mesmerizing her people as a YouTube sensation. But Jilly’s talents don’t stop there: she is both co-president of the successful and highly important club Care for a Cure, and co-captain of the Boston Latin girls’ ice hockey team, where she dangles around any opponent and then “cellies” in their face after.

I met Jill the summer before sixie year at hockey camp. One day, I was walking home from the rink alone in the rain. Jilly drove by in the car with her mom, and when her mom asked if she should drive me home, Jill responded with a simple but ruthless “no,” and let me continue the treacherous walk through the hills of Jamaica Plain. I have forgiven her for this because I am such a good friend who does not hold a grudge for six years. I’m not still mad. Seriously. It’s fine, Jill.

Upon joining the hockey team in seventh grade, Jill and I quickly discovered that we had an uncanny ability to know exactly what the other person was thinking. This was the true start to our beautifully bizarre friendship. This telepathy along with our inability to be social with anyone but each other for the first couple of years on the hockey team caused the nickname “Pill” to be coined.

Jill thinks about some pretty weird stuff. Just the other day she started freaking out because “everyone here has been in a womb.” But it’s that kind of stuff that makes her such an awesome friend. Just when you think life is getting boring, Jilly makes you see things in a completely different light.

We’re all aware of Jill’s celebrity obsessions. It all started with the Jonas Brothers. My first time at her house, I saw her walls plastered with Jonas Brothers posters and magazine clippings to the point where you couldn’t see an inch of actual wall. I was concerned for her mental health. But with time, I have come to understand that Jill can somewhat function in society despite these debilitating obsessions, so it’s okay.

If you are lucky enough to consider Jill your friend, then you know what I’m talking about. If you aren’t friends with her yet, you still have seven months to meet her; she’s the one with the purple hair! Michael Parham (I) has been known to say every once or twice—or twenty times: “Jilly Bean is a force! [the good kind]” so you know she’s pretty cool. In all seriousness, I am so proud of Jill and I don’t know what I’ll do without her at college next year.

A&E

Katniss is Back

BY LUCY SERGEANT, I,
MARCELLA CARUSO, I &
ALLIE KENNELLY, I
SPORTS, NEWS, & AE EDITORS

There are few movies that compel viewers enough to wait in line for hours, forgo a night of sleep and consume countless cups of coffee the next morning all to prove their dedication to a world of fictional characters by attending a midnight movie premiere. Proudly sporting bags under their eyes and sweat pants, with an extra large coffee in their hands, and threatening to reveal spoilers to those students not as dedicated as themselves, these zombies can, once in a blue moon, be found roaming the halls of BLS. As the generation of “Harry Potter” fans transitions into adulthood, a new series has captivated audiences worldwide. What is this multi-million dollar franchise? Why “The Hunger Games”, of course!

Katniss Everdeen, a fifteen-year-old living in the most desolate district in the postapocalyptic world of Panem, District 12, volunteers as tribute for the hunger games, a ruthless competition in which 24 tributes must fight to the death until there is only one left standing. Katniss manages to survive the game as well as break Panem tradition by refusing to kill her District 12 partner, Peeta Mellark, therefore forcing a dual victory for the first time in Panem history and defying the Capitol’s tyrannical government. The second movie in the series, *Catching Fire*, which opened on November 22, picks up post-games with Katniss and Peeta struggling to return to civilian life.

On Thursday night at 8 PM, *Catching Fire* hit US theaters. Although the Boston Common Loews Theater offered the earlier showing, diehard fans patiently waited in line for hours to catch the official midnight premiere. Glancing around the crowded movie theatre lobby, it was hard to tell if one was still in Boston or had been transported to the world of Panem. Viewers arrived in style. There were tributes looking sleek and stealthy in their arena suits and

President Snow demands that the tributes be chosen from previous victors. The games aren’t over for Katniss or Peeta—in fact they’ve just begun.

The franchise’s second film had a higher budget and more advanced special effects, which helped to accurately bring Suzanne Collins’s vision to life. There is no doubt that “*Catching Fire*” was a costume designer’s dream. From the unconventional fashion statements made by Effie

Trinket and Caesar Flickerman—think gold hair, 7-inch heels, dense layers of vibrant makeup and hundreds of bottles of hair gel—to the simplistic beauty that embodies Katniss Everdeen, the Girl on Fire, no ocean of creativity was left uncharted.

The film also manages to convey the rising defiance of the districts against their oppressive government, all inspired by Katniss’ refusal to play the games by

the Capitol’s rules, symbolized by her signature mockingjay pin. This symbol takes on new meaning as citizens across Panem use it to represent their revolt against the sick, twisted ways of the capitol. With these darker, broader themes of rebellion, innovative cinematography, and the Oscar-winning Jennifer Lawrence at the center of the franchise, everything points to an even more sophisticated concluding film, *Mockingjay*.

At three in the morning, dazed audience members left the theatre too inspired by the bravery and defiance of the tributes to recognize the impending school day ahead of them. Only two thoughts lingered in their minds: Where is Peeta? And what happened to District 12?



KATNISS EVERDEEN AND PEETA MELLARK IN *CATCHING FIRE*.

citizens of the capitol dressed in their eccentric best.

At 10 P.M. anxious groupies were taken out of their misery and allowed to enter into a different sort of arena of the hunger games—a fight to the death for the perfect seat. Viewers acted as tributes, shell shocked by the competition of few seats and many fans. After two hours of bathroom breaks, trips to the snack line, and a quick game of musical chairs, the room went dark and fans cheered as the screen lit up before them.

It’s been almost a year since the last games, and Katniss and Peeta are desperate to return to normalcy. President Snow, however, has different plans for the District 12 victors. For the 75th games, the “third Quarter Quell,”

She-Wolf: Mega-Edition

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

Lately, I feel that my boyfriend has been awfully distant. Every time I try to talk to him he responds with stuff like “Stop talking to me” or “I swear, I don’t even know you” or “Get out of my house!” Maybe I’m crazy, but I think there’s a divide between us. I don’t know what I did wrong. I go to his locker every period but sometimes he sees me and starts running in the other direction! Maybe it’s nothing and I’m overthinking it, but I really need your advice. Help?

Sincerely,
Caring, Romantic, Energetic and Exceptional Partner

Dear C.R.E.E.P.,

I feel for you. Some boys just don’t get it. Even when you’re such a loving significant other they’re hot and they’re cold. They’re yes and they’re no. All they do is take from the relationship. What you need to do is lock him down. Chances are he’s scared of taking the next step. You need to take initiative and propose to him. I’m not talking prom. I’m talking marriage. In front of a lot of people, so he can’t say no. If he’s ever had any doubts, they’ll go away the second he sees you pull out a five thousand dollar ring. Trust me. It’s worked before.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

I’m not sure how this happened. One second I was a fun-loving mayor having the time of my life. The next, the world took arms against me. Everyone hates me now. All I want to do is to turn up, eh? What’s a mayor to do?

Sincerely,
Frantic Overweight Rogue Dunce

Dear F.O.R.D.,

This is an easy one. It’s quite simple, actually. You’ve been caught doing illegal drugs. That’s bad. I won’t sugarcoat it. But now, you need to make it look better... by doing something even worse. I’m talking cold blooded murder. Soon all this will be behind you. Nobody will call you the “Crack Smoking Mayor,” they’ll call you the “Convicted Murderer Mayor.” At the end of the day, isn’t that better?

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

I’ve recently transferred to a new high school, but no one seems to notice me. I want to make new friends, but everyone has their own groups already. I could join the Latin or Yu-Gi-Oh clubs, but that’s not really my thing. How do I make my mark so late in high school?

Sincerely,
Very Introverted New Entrant

Dear V.I.N.E.,

You can use social media to get popular! If there’s one type of person everyone loves, it’s that one person who never talks in person but has 3.5K tweets! Try and Instagram pictures of every single calorie that enters your body, and be sure to pick artsy filters like Kelvin or 1977. But the capstone of all media forms is video. No other communication medium, nay, art form, has captured the hearts and minds of young high schoolers. Make a habit of running quickly over slippery surfaces or carrying heavy objects or attempting trick shots, and you’re sure to become the most popular kid in no time.

Club Spotlight

Habitat for Humanity



By ALICE XIAO, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Imagine this scenario: you are a wildly successful businessman and lawyer, becoming a self-made millionaire at age 29. As you add more and more to your empire, however, you feel like your life is becoming worse: you’re having problems with your health, marriage and conscience. After much soul-searching, you and your spouse decide to sell your possessions, move to Africa and eventually start a housing project that you bring back to the United States and spread all over the world. That is the story of how Miller Fuller and his family founded Habitat for Humanity in 1976.

The nonprofit Christian housing ministry builds and repairs houses using volunteer labor and donations. Partner families receive these houses and pay fixed monthly mortgage payments that finance future Habitat for Humanity projects.

President Jenny Li (I) refounded the Boston Latin School Habitat for Humanity chapter after a long hiatus as a club. Along with Vice President Gaoyuan Liu (I), Treasurer George Huynh (I) and Secretary Mia Yee (II), Li has revitalized the club and brought it to new heights.

“My favorite part about Habitat is that we can see what we’ve accomplished,” says Li. “Students can get involved with such a big issue that’s both local and global, and we can be a part of the direct change—we can see what we’ve done.”

The team raised enough money last year to work on two buildings in June: one on Ashton Street and the other on Blue Hill Avenue, both in Dorchester. For six and a half hours, team members painted interior walls, hammered and used power tools to build a woodshed and set floorboards.

This direct involvement intrigues many to join the cause.

“There are so many underclassmen who come to our school and are immediately interested,” said Vice President Liu. “It really shows how strong the Habitat mission is.”

“The thing about Habitat that makes it stand out is sweat equity,” says Liu. He’s referring to the promise that each family receiving a house makes: to put in 400 hours of work on their own house as well as on other neighborhood homes.

“That’s important to me because it’s not a free handout, but it’s altruistic and helping people,” continued Liu, by not only providing them a home but also “a sense of pride and ownership.”

“There’s nothing more appealing than being able to build a home alongside the family that’s receiving it,” added Li.

Habitat for Humanity BLS was honored for its “exemplary performance in its first year as a campus chapter” at Fenway Park the night the Red Sox clinched the American League East title.

Although the minimum building age is 16, members of all ages can fundraise to aid the club in meeting its goal of building as many homes as possible. For more information, email bostonlatinhabitat@gmail.com.

Lindsey’s Got Talent

KATHLEEN KIM, VI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When you think of the word “violin,” you think of Mozart, Beethoven and fancy concert halls. What if you heard the phrase “hip pop violinist”? What comes to mind? This is the term coined by America’s Got Talent to define Lindsey Stirling’s unique musical gift.

Stirling has been a YouTube sensation for nearly seven years. Unlike most violinists and other classical musicians, this talented 27-year-old plays modern songs like Taylor Swift’s “I Knew You Were Trouble,” Nicki Minaj’s “Starships,” Yiruma’s “The River Flows in You,” Imagine Dragons’ “Radioactive” and Macklemore’s “Thrift Shop,” all while dancing. She also plays theme songs from Assassin’s Creed, Halo, Legend of Zelda, Skyrim and Star Wars while decked out in full costume. Stirling even composes and plays her own songs. Her most popular original, “Crystallize,” was the eighth most watched video on YouTube in 2012 with over 77 million views.

Stirling was not born with fame or money; she was born with talent. As a child, she developed a passion for music and dancing. Her family struggled financially and was unable to pay for both violin and dance lessons for their daughter. Although she cherished both, Stirling chose violin over dancing, but never allowed her family’s financial standing to keep her from enjoying either. “In spite of the many limitations that could have boxed me in, it was these years that taught me to dream big, work hard and enjoy the small simple moments of life,” says Stirling.



STIRLING PERFORMS WITH HER FAMED LUIS AND CLARK VIOLIN.

down by both Piers Morgan and Sharon Osborne due to her performance of “Break Your Heart” and “Tik Tok.” Both judges felt that her talent, though unique, was not enough to foster success in the music industry. “You’re not untalented, but you’re not good enough to get away with flying through the air and trying to play the violin at the same time,” Morgan commented on her performance.

Rejection only increased Stirling’s determination. She started her own YouTube channel called LindseyStomp, which has racked up over three million subscribers since its initiation. Stirling was also asked by cinematographer

Devin Graham to record a music video. After the success of their first production, “Spontaneous Me,” a Lindsey Stirling original, the duo joined forces on numerous other musical endeavors. She also collaborated with Debi Johansen, Pentatonix, Tyler Ward, Peter Hollens, John Legend and the Piano Guys, as well as with Lady Gaga’s manager, Troy Carter.

In addition to her work as a musician, Stirling has helped non-profit organizations raise money to teach children how to play instruments. In collaboration with the Atlanta Music Project, Stirling raised the money to provide musical instrument lessons to 50 kids.

Stirling is currently touring in the United States, Asia, Europe and Australia and will be participating in the third season of Dance Showdown, a dance competition web-series created by Dance On. Her album, Lindsey Stirling, has sold over 158,000 copies in the U.S., making her the second best-selling classic crossover artist.

She also won a YouTube Music Award for “Response of the Year” for her “Radioactive” music video.

Lindsey Stirling started out small; she rose from an ordinary childhood into an extraordinary career. Despite initial limitations, she never gave up on her dreams, teaching herself and all of her fans that believing in oneself is the most powerful tool in the music industry. As Lindsey Stirling says, “We give more liberties to other people than we do to ourselves. We put labels on ourselves, but we love seeing people who just don’t care about what others think. The challenge is to love yourself for who you are, be your best self, and to encourage others to do the same.”

Yeezus Rocks

BY CLARE DUCKWORTH, II &
LIAM O’CONNOR, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The TD Garden became the Garden of Yeezus when rap god Kanye West hit the stage on November 17 to perform his sixth solo album, changing the lives of all 18,000 spectators in the audience that night. No single performance could make it any clearer that Kanye West is, in fact, a god.

We stood patiently, in a far away section, foolishly thinking we were prepared for the show. But nothing could have prepared us for Kanye and his numerous guest performers: Jesus, twelve naked women, a priest and a red-eyed beast.

Yeezus came on stage with explosive energy, demanding the crowd’s attention with his controversial, provocative lyrics and an insanely dope set. West performed “Blood on the Leaves,” while a massive 60-foot mountain behind him spewed fire every time the bass dropped. Yeezus even parted the mountain by splitting it in two. #Moses? Later on in the show, West walked through the mountain towards the end of the catwalk, where his disciples and a priest awaited his arrival. After a brief ceremony for Yeezus, a heavenly cloud formed above the mountain, and what do you know? Jesus appeared. Yeezus acknowledged Jesus by saying, “White Jesus, is that you?” and then transitioned into his

song, “Jesus Walks.”

If anyone at this show was ever skeptical about the power of Yeezus, they were quickly put to rest. West set off the entire crowd by playing a single piano note: the introduction to his song,



WEST AND HIS DISCIPLES AT THE TD GARDEN.

“Runaway” from My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy. The almighty Yeezus knew that with the touch of a piano key, he could bring the house down, and he did just that.

Throughout his set, West belted out a few questions to the crowd in an auto-tuned scream: “What do you have to do to prove you’re creative? Why are people so irritated by the truth? In a world of lies,

the truth can feel so wrong haaaaan?”

Kanye spit some real ish for a while in that flawless auto tune, and even though I knew in some crevice of my brain that everything Kanye was saying was complete egotistical nonsense, the rest of my body was in complete agreement with him. Yeezus knows how to own a crowd.

We walked out of the Garden Sunday night, leaving our prior beliefs lying somewhere on that grimy balcony floor. Our new, educated minds became one with our bodies and followed them all the way home, tickling them with glimpses of Yeezus, floating around his glorious stage, suspended in mid-air by the hands of his lovely, naked disciples, and face-to-face with “White Jesus.”

Kanye’s always killin’ it. That hasn’t changed. The Yeezus tour was one of the best shows I have ever been to. You might read this and think to yourself, “Whatever. Kanye is a narcissistic jerk.” And you would be right. Kanye West is a narcissistic jerk. But if you have the nerve to criticize the stunts that I witnessed on that fateful Sunday evening, then you must be a narcissistic jerk too.

The next time Kanye comes to Boston, you’ll find us high in the upper levels of the balcony, because \$60 is a small price to pay to witness the raw power of God.

Senior Spotlight Sharzil Kazi



BY AIDAN PRICE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

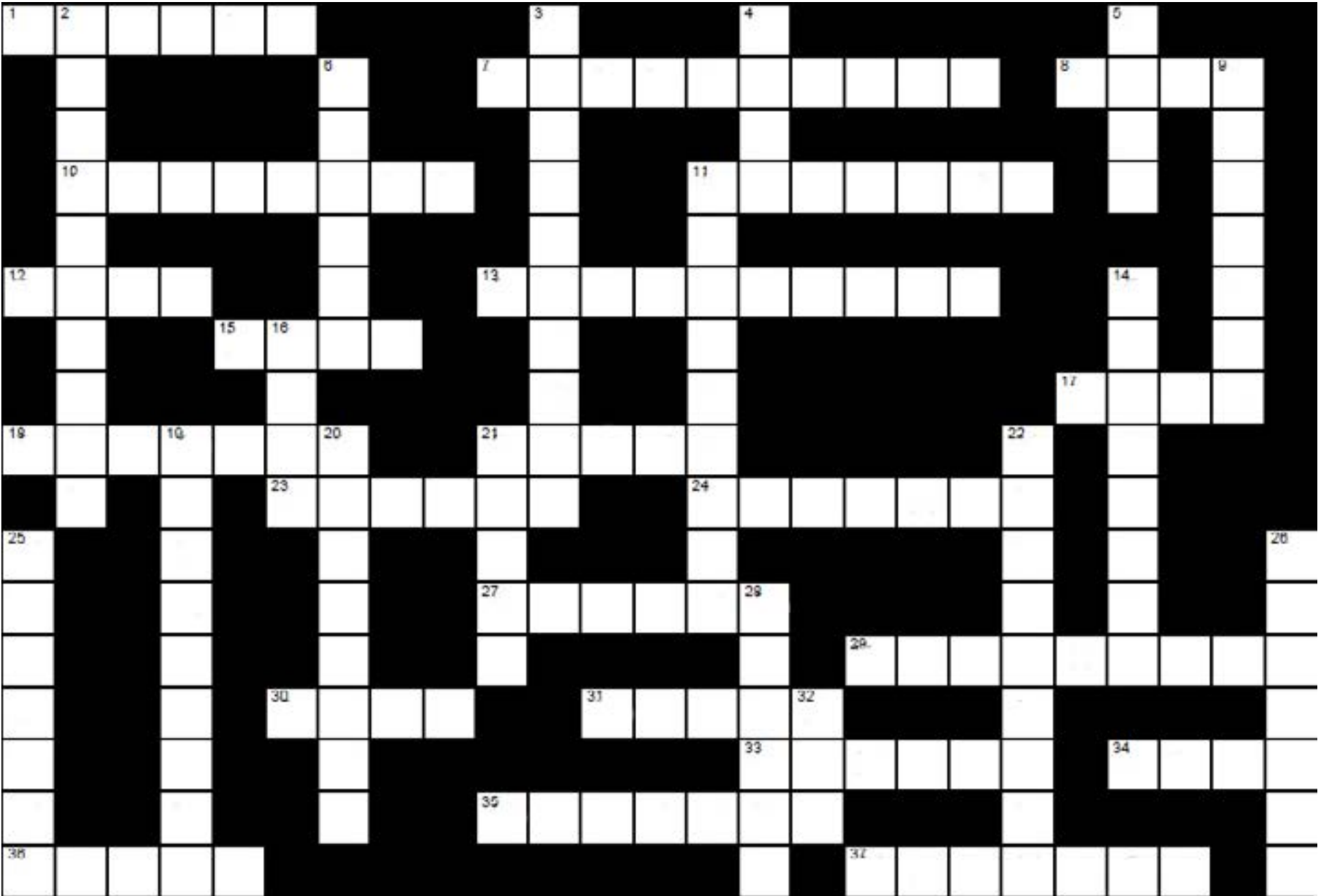
Serious, focused, strong, studious and hard-working. None of these words describe Sharzil.

Sharzil Kazi is quite a piece of work. When I first met him in ninth grade, he repeatedly insulted my mother. Although it was completely out of context (and still is today), I knew this kid had to become one of my close friends. And luckily for me, he did. You’ll recognize Sharzil as the kid constantly wearing flannel shirts and a backwards OBEY hat. The kid with those keys jingling behind him, with every step you’d think he’s ringing Christmas bells all year round. And if you can’t see him, just wait a few seconds and you’ll hear him yelling to his friends the infinite inside jokes that he’s cultivated over the years, all of which are hilarious, whether school appropriate or not. And this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Sharzil. I won’t even begin to delve into his opinion on Emma Watson.

If there’s one of Sharzil’s qualities that I must share with everyone, it’s his ability to enjoy his life to no end. Whether it’s mastering the art of cooking pancakes and brownies, commenting on the edibility of dogs he runs into on the street, or constantly trying to confuse and mess with waiters when we go out to eat (don’t worry, we tip well), Sharzil definitely has life down. Some people might find him annoying or obnoxious, but to them I say, “Lighten up, it’s just who he is, and I love it.” For instance, we paired up as ketchup and mustard on Halloween, one of the highlights of senior year so far. Sharzil is such an outgoing and absolutely hilarious guy which is why I love him to death and consider him as one of my greatest friends.

Another great thing about Sharzil is his imagination. Man, his imagination’s a pretty messed up place; the things he says can be either incredibly funny, or force you to do a double take. His only “flaw” simply adds to his infinite comedy: he is so useless at everything. Whether it’s doing laundry, cooking, tying shoes or remembering to get off the bus at the correct stop, he simply cannot do anything right. Of course, we give him grief, but hey, it’s part of the lifestyle when your father owns a convenience store. Ask him about drinking tap water—I know I’ve already heard a mouthful on this hot button issue.

If you don’t know Sharzil, then what are you doing?! Go meet him! He’s very friendly, once you get past the random insults and childish antics. You can track him down by listening for key quotes from him, “GG no re, huehue, you wanna go?” and others of the such. Love you dude. <3



Across

2. Where are the bathrooms always open? (2 words)
6. Louis Pasteur, Mass. or Comm. ____
7. Burritos galore - Boston Local Company
8. Alternative to the SAT
12. Aztecs, Mayans, and ____
15. "Do it for the _____"; Climbing plant
16. Dylan or Barker
18. 1950s Iran Coup: Operation ____
19. ____ cell anemia
21. Annoy
22. Odysseus' son
24. Tarantino's dogs
25. The UN's Ki-Moon ____
28. Bros or airport
29. Watergate exposé Bob ____
30. Capital of Canada
31. JFK was born here
32. Gay in Spanish
34. 2014 VP or fruit
35. Neighborhood near BLS
36. Right-hand side, at sea
37. Largest land mammal
38. The name of the vampire in Nosferatu: Count ____

Down

1. "Carpe diem" movie starring Robin Williams
2. Superman's arch enemy
3. Sole one-syllable state
4. Breaking Bad's Los ____ Hermanos
5. Group of kangaroos
9. Pineapple, in Paris
10. Lewis Carroll's imaginary monster
11. Incarcerated member of 2014
12. Name of George Lucas' dog; Midwestern state
13. The fastest shark IN THE WORLD
14. BLS library namesake
17. "Any other slice is a sliver" (2 words)
20. Bush brother
21. Delicious hazelnut chocolate spread
22. Saturn's largest moon
23. Common mosquito-borne disease in Africa
26. JFK's grandfather/presidential yacht
27. He's been at BLS for 50 years
32. "Calm down, ____"
33. "Ooh, Kill Em" star
35. Toronto (ex?) mayor

Horoscopes

Aries March 21 - April 19: You might see an attractive person on the train in 7 days, God bless.
Taurus April 20 - May 20: You may not know the muffin man, but he knows you and he will look for you, he will find you and he will overuse this joke from Taken.
Gemini May 21 - June 20: Thou shalt not be rad if thou dost not thinkest rad.
Cancer June 21 - July 22: Hey man. Keep your head up, listen to some funky tunes and make some balloon animals!
Leo July 23 - August 22: I saw you take that Snapchat earlier... My, my, my.
Virgo August 23 - September 22: [HEAVY BREATHING]
Libra September 23 - October 22: Just promise me you won't dance with the devil in the pale moonlight.
Scorpio October 23 - November 21: I see a Twitter fight in your future!
Sagittarius November 22 - December 21: You are the lizard king; you can do anything.
Capricorn December 22 - January 19: If Steve Buscemi made it this far, you can make it through high school.
Aquarius January 20 - February 18: It's past your curfew. Dad says you have to come home.
Pisces February 19 - March 20: That tattoo you were thinking about could either be really dope or total trash. Make decisions wisely!

ELITE MCGONAGLE (U)

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4 | | | 5 | 7 | | |
| | | | 3 | | 7 | | | |
| 2 | 6 | | | | 9 | | | |
| 5 | 1 | | 7 | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | | | | 7 | 3 |
| | 3 | | | 8 | 2 | | | |
| | 8 | | | | | 2 | | 1 |
| 6 | 2 | | 1 | | 3 | 5 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Senior Spotlight

Meagan Lew



By Lucy Moyes, I & Isabel Ridge Creamer, I
Contributing Writers

Meagan Lew has many defining attributes: “the little fashionista,” “the white-washed Asian,” “the badass coxswain,” and so on, but many of you do not know that there is much more to her than what meets the eye. While you may see Meagan as an average Asian girl at Boston Latin School, we know her as much more than that.

The three of us became friends four years ago when we joined BLS crew. We watched Meagan grow from a quiet, inexperienced coxswain to a force to be reckoned with. Meagan is more sophisticated and classy than more than half the students who roam the halls of BLS, but still knows how to enjoy herself on the weekends. Come Saturday night you can catch Meagan showing off her amazing dancing skills—Elvis Antigua (I) can tell you.

At 4’9”, Meagan has earned herself a name in the sport of rowing. For those of you who don’t know, Meagan is a coxswain, i.e. the little person who sits at the back of the boat and steers while giving commands. That being said, it takes more than just shouting “Row!” a few times to be a good coxswain. She is the captain of one of the biggest powerhouse teams on the East Coast. She drove her boat to a seventh place finish at National Championships last spring. And she will be repping the Blue Devils next year as she works her way to the top of yet another powerhouse team. Many of you probably thought they didn’t exist, but Meagan is in fact a non-athletic Division 1 athlete.

Additionally, Meagan is one of the best dressed girls around. She has accumulated her super cute wardrobe from her favorite store, Crew Cuts. Not only can she construct a tasteful yet trendy outfit with no sweat at all, but she can find out anything that you need to know about absolutely anyone, with her unique and useful skills. From stalking the competition at USRowing Youth Nationals to the entire Asian boy population at Boston Latin, Meagan is an expert creeper. She says that she wants to go on the pre-med track at Duke and that her dream job is to be an Optometrist, but we both know that her true calling is in the private investigation practice.

Meagan is down-to-earth and a great advice-giver. You can go to her with anything from a fashion crisis to a problem with the previous night’s chemistry homework and she’ll be willing and able to help. While BLS will be taking a loss in June when Meagan graduates, we know that she will go on to do bigger and better things at Duke and throughout the rest of her life. She will continue to make an impact everywhere she goes; whether it’s helping kids with glasses or excelling in her detective work, she will be making the world a better place. We can’t wait to see what Meagan will accomplish in college and beyond.

Seniors Sign Letters of Intent

By Lucy Sergeant, I
Sports Editor

On Wednesday, November 13, the hard work and determination of five senior athletes finally paid off as they signed their letters of intent to play Division I college athletics. The students were joined by their families and some classmates in the Seevak room Wednesday morning for the ceremony. To have one or two athletes sign to play in college is a huge feat for Boston Latin School (BLS). To have five different students able to compete at the college level is a testament to the senior class’ dedication, athleticism and determination in and out of the classroom.

Lucy Moyes (I) and Meagan Lew (I) are both coxswains who first began crew when they joined the BLS team in eighth grade. While both moved on to rowing for the private club, Community Rowing Inc., they can still credit BLS with inspiring their love of crew. Lucy Moyes committed to University of Rhode Island (URI), after considering all of her choices. She commented, “It was amazing seeing everything I had been working for the last four years finally happening.” After all, Lucy had the goal of being a coxswain in college when she began crew years ago. She says, “Rowing in college was never a question of something I wanted to do.” This determination and confidence led Lucy to her position on the URI crew team for the next four years. In addition to her hard work in crew, her diligence in the classroom has ensured

that between athletic and academic scholarships, she will have a full ride. Along with all the other parents in the room, Lucy’s mother, Ann Saydah, was tremendously proud to see her daughter sign. She says, “It brought together all her best attributes.”

Fellow coxswain, Meagan Lew (I), has committed to row for Duke University. Her final decision came down to choosing between University of Michigan and Duke. Duke ulti-

so long so it felt great to finally do it.”

Maggie Mulligan (I), the six foot two superstar of BLS girls’ basketball team, has committed to play for UMass Amherst next year. Her goal has always been to play Division I basketball, and this dream was realized as she signed her letter. Her striking height and dedication to the game have shown that she has what it takes to play at the next level. Mulligan commented, “It was a huge relief to sign my letter. All the hard work has finally paid off. I am very proud of everyone who has committed.”

In addition, Patrick Naughton (I) has committed to play baseball for Virginia Tech, and Paige Mulrey (I) has committed to play softball for Providence College. Naughton is a starting pitcher for the BLS varsity team, and Mulrey is a utility player on the varsity softball team. Both are excited to continue playing their game on the collegiate level. All five athletes are thrilled for the chance to see the higher level of competition in college. They all hope to improve their game in the new competitive environment they will see next year, no matter what sport they will be playing. These five student-athletes are proof that hard work and determination can really pay off in getting the chance to play college athletics. Whether one is over six feet or under five feet tall, playing baseball, basketball, softball or crew, a boy or a girl, the chance to compete in college athletics is possible. Be sure to congratulate all these athletes for their accomplishment the next time you see them around school.



SENIORATHLETESLUCYMOYES(I),PAIGEMULREY(I),MAGGIEMULLIGAN(I), PATRICKNAUGHTON(I)ANDMEAGANLEW(I)AFTERSIGNINGTHEIRLETTERS.

mately won her over because during her visit she could really see herself as a student there. In addition, Meagan says, “The rowing team is super close-knit and that was something I wanted to be a part of.” All of this, combined with the huge amount of school spirit at Duke, made the decision clear to her. While signing the letter, Meagan said it felt kind of surreal. She says, “I had thought about signing a letter for

Started From the Bottom...

By Hazel Hallas, III
Contributing Writer

This World Series-winning Boston Red Sox team was different from the classy professionals of 2007. This team was different from the scrappy curse-breakers of 2004. Sure, they collapsed in September of the 2011 season after dealing the big bucks on two “superstar” players, Adrian Gonzalez and Carl Crawford. Sure, the BoSox went 69-93 the next year, which was good enough (or bad enough) for the cellar of the American League East Division. All these bad memories did was give fuel to the concoction that new manager John Farrell was stirring all year long: team chemistry.

Unlike the previous complete train-wreck of a manager, Bobby Valentine, Farrell got to his team early and showed them that he would be leading the team. Another key part of this miraculous comeback was the offseason signings by General Manager Ben Cherington. Players like Mike Napoli, Shane Victorino, Stephen Drew and the guy you have all heard of a million times, Koji Uehara, came onto the Red Sox and played their role day by day. This kind of mindset that Farrell set on day one was exactly what the Red Sox needed to forget all about the past, while still being

able to relish the thought that they were the jaw-dropping underdogs.

The first team to get in the Red Sox’s way during the 2013 Fall Classic was their newfound rivals, the Tampa Bay Rays. Led by smoldering bats and stellar pitching, the Sox eased by the Rays, winning three of four in a best-of-five series. The next series was a lot more nerve-wracking and intriguing as the Detroit Tigers and their soon-to-be-recognized Cy Young pitcher, Max Scherzer, found themselves in Fenway Park for Game 1 of the best-of-seven American League Championship Series. Led by postseason heroics and timely hitting, the Red Sox were able to put a Game 1 loss behind them and run off ahead of the Tigers with their beautiful beards flapping in the breeze.

The fact that the Red Sox even made it to the playoffs at this point is just astounding because of the treacherous season prior to 2013, but what made this magical run even more, well, “magical-er,” was the timing in relation to the Boston Marathon bombings. Nobody involved or related to someone involved in the atrocious attacks on Patriots’ Day 2013 could have even imagined a gift as awesome as their hometown Sox heading to the World Series with a chance to win it all. Boston coming together

as a family on that dismal day in April surely could not have been coincidentally the same way that the Red Sox came together to fight for a win every night for six months after the bombings.

Game 1 started and ended with disbelief and happiness for Sox fans, as the boys pounded the Cardinals’ best pitcher, Adam Wainwright. The Cardinals came storming back, however, with two wins in a row that put the Red Sox in a very deep hole with injured Clay Buchholz assigned to pitch Game 4 in St. Louis’ Busch Stadium. Once again pitching held up and offense was just enough to outstand the Cardinals 4-2 and tie the series. Then later on, Jon Lester, the ace of the Sox staff, stood up and slammed down the Cardinals to send Game 6 to Boston with the home crowd having a chance to see their team win it all in their home city for the first time in 95 years. From the third inning on there was never a doubt whether the Sox would be taking home the trophy that night as they tacked consecutive innings of three runs onto the rookie phenom, Michael Wacha. Koji, like usual, closed the door on any comeback hopes with a scoreless ninth, only to be swarmed by his teammates as they celebrated their third World Series title in the last decade.

SPORTS

Rise to the TOP

BY PAT FAHY, I, ELVIS ANTIGUA, I,
ROY BANHAM, I &
SEBASTIAN D’AMICO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

After a rough 2-9 season last year, the Wolfpack looked to bounce back in a big way this year. The football team knew they had big shoes to fill with the loss of premiere backs and captains like Jhalen Bien-Aihme and Mike Surdek. Even before the season began, however, there was a quarterback “controversy” between captains Roy Bahnam (I), Patrick Fahy (I) and senior Jack O’Toole (I). After a quick competition, Roy took control of the quarterback position, Fahy stepped in as a hard-hitting running back and O’Toole stepped up as a versatile wide receiver. A proven strong point of the team that was known coming into the year was the offensive line, especially with four returning starters, including captains Elvis Antigua (I) and Sebastian D’Amico (I), as well as Jacky Liu (II), Ross Garrity (II) and Eddie Sullivan (I) filling the void of alum Conor Pease at right tackle. With new young talents on the rise, senior leadership was imminent. Returning players like Jimmy White (I) and Pat Yetman (I) had to take their fair share of repetitions to set a good example to the kids who will be playing in the years following. The Wolfpack was going to be a force to be reckoned with. They came out quickly with a big victory against Brookline, with help coming from Mike Parham (I), who has improved greatly from last season, and a huge game from Fahy with four touchdowns. The next game, Peter Honzik (II) stepped up, receiving two touchdowns and proving

to be an unstoppable force on defense, a quality he has kept up all season. But that same game, the Wolfpack lost Fahy for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus. Backs like Pat O’Grady (I), Duncan McGaff (II), Danny Bohan (III) and Justin Springle (III) had to fill the void and show everyone what they had. As a team the Pack



THE WOLFPACK HAVE BATTLED BACK TO A 5-5 SEASON WITH ENGLISH LEFT TO BEAT

started off hot, averaging 40 points a game and winning the first two games, but then went on a five game skid, as both the offense and defense struggled. Seven games into the season, the Wolfpack was sadly out of the playoff picture. At a record of 2-5 and with four games left, their goal from that point forward was to go above 0.500 for the season. In a nail-biter against Medford, where the defense had many big stops from players like Pat Brown (I), Honzik (II) and Sebastien Philemon (II), Bahnam found receivers Honzik and Parham multiple times and found O’Toole with just 32 seconds remaining to win the game. Then against Salem, the Wolfpack foiled the Witches’ plans by sweeping their fans out of the

stadium with big plays from players like Duncan McGaff and Sebastien Philemon. At senior night against Belmont, in the Wolfpack’s only game at their former home field, White Stadium, many students and fans showed up to support the Wolfpack football team, cheerleaders, step squad and band. As the Marauders had jumped to an early start due to a sloppy beginning to the game by the Pack, there was a need for big plays to spark a comeback. The offense came out after the half to an awesome return by Isaac Ibeh (III), another strong sophomore, who gave the team the jolt they needed. Captains Sebby and Elvis led the O-line to a magnificent performance, not allowing any sacks and creating a clean pocket all night for Roy, who helped O’Toole and Parham find the endzone. From that point on, the moons were aligned for the Wolfpack. On defense, Andreas Kaplan (III) had an interception late in the game, McGaff returned a fumble 65 yards to the endzone, and Honzik had a wild two-point conversion return for 90 yards that sealed the deal for Latin against Belmont. Latin still looks to complete its comeback season by using their explosive threats against the English High in order to “Bomb the Blue.” A win against English means a season that finishes over 0.500 for Wolfpack football. The Pack is going to need a balanced dose of running from O’Grady as well as the potent aerial attack. English has not beaten Latin since the twentieth century and it looks like they will have to wait another year for a win because they sure are not winning this year. With the talent coming up, they will be lucky to squeak a few points by the Pack.

Senior Spotlight

Maggie Mulligan



BY NATALIE FIORENZO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Maggie Mulligan is an amazing person. Before basketball star, before best friend, before baby lover, Maggie Mulligan is an amazing person. There is no one quite like her. To most people, she is a very tall modelesque senior who plays basketball, but that isn’t even the half of it.

To start with, Maggie is a human furnace. She loves hugging and loving everyone, but if you accept her love -- BEWARE! Because if you are too close to her for even three minutes, your body temperature will rise approximately 24 degrees. Note: This is only pleasant when in her home, which is a cool 58 degrees all winter long. Another thing you might not know is that she loves green beans. Not just loves them, but really loves them. They are the Jack to her Rose, the Jim to her Pam, the Maya Rudolph to her Kristen Wiig. Green beans have her feeling some type of way. She is a complete weirdo normally, but green beans bring her to a whole new level of awesome weirdness where she starts making a lot of weird hand gestures, flicks her fingers and usually stares at you for long periods of time. It is truly a sight to see. The next thing she loves most in this world is babies. She denies it profusely but we all know that she Google searches “cute babies” in her spare time. If you look at her phone to read the time, don’t be surprised if the lock screen is a baby. She is obsessed!

When not spending time on her weird obsessions, Maggie Mulligan eats, sleeps and breathes basketball. Not only is she amazing at it, but she lives for it. I honestly cannot think of a single time I’ve heard her complain about going to practice. It has become a part of her. Maggie=basketball, basketball=Maggie. It’s no surprise that she signed with the UMass Minutemen, a Division I basketball team in which she will undoubtedly be a vital part come September.

Maybe most important of all, Maggie is a loyal friend. All 74 inches of her are filled with love. She gives 100 percent to the people she loves at all times. She knows how to make you feel better, whether it involves just listening, pulling great advice out of thin air, or making some hilarious and probably unrelated comment. I have known Maggie since the trailer times when we were only three years old, and I don’t know what I’m going to do without my number one next year. She is the only other person who likes my music, the only other person who thinks Melinda and Jim are the best TV couple of all time and she is my pizza and french fry eating partner. But if you love something you have to set it free, so go to UMass and make us all proud, Marge.

XC and We Know It

BY AVA VIOLICH, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As coaches like to say, running is a mental sport—and given that, it may appear at first glance that all of BLS’s cross country runners are completely insane. After all, who in their right mind would volunteer to spend two hours of their free time after school putting themselves through the kind of torture cross country entails? We spend half of our afternoons sprinting up and down hills and running timed intervals on the track in the searing heat or freezing cold—and we spend the other half complaining about them. Our shoes have a greater mileage than the average car. Our mascara runs faster than the average girl. Our “easy days” are eight mile long treks to the Larz Anderson hill in Brookline. We race in the woods, with no benches, half-times, substitutions or time-outs. And to top it all off, we put ourselves through mud, sweat and tears in BLS’s name without any recognition at all—because cross country at school is like a dying tribe. No one even knows we exist. After we get back from meets, exhausted from finishing a give-it-your-all, collapse-at-the-finish-line race we lose anyway by 0.1 seconds to some suburbanite from Lincoln-Sudbury, we look in the mirror and quote The Help so we can convince ourselves there is still a point in living the life of a cross country runner: “You is strong. You is fierce. You is important.”

Now that you’re hopefully feeling at least a tiny twinge of guilt for not wishing us any sort of luck or coming to cheer us on during home meets

(which, by the way, are on Wednesdays at Franklin Park, a straight shot on the T, 4:00 P.M. for those who want to redeem themselves next year), you can make up for it by reading about this past season and pretending you were paying attention when all of it actually happened. But keep in mind—God runs cross country. He knows the truth.

Anyone can run 100 meters; it’s the next 4,900 that really count. And this past season, the cross country team has put in a phenomenal effort making those meters matter not only in the DCL races, but also in divisional and even statewide invitational meets. Our good looks may be natural, but our endurance definitely is not—it is the result of months of hard work in the summer practicing tempos, completing intervals, finishing distance workouts and running after the ice cream truck all in the hopes that come fall, we might be able to hold our own against the powerhouse running teams in the DCL. And this year, we did that and more.

Although we lost two top runners, co-captain Grace O’Brien (II) and Andrew Yang (III) to stress fractures, the team set some impressive bests. For the girls, cross country veterans, Alanah O’Brien (co-captain, II) and Sarah Kiamie (IV) finished the season with a truly outstanding record—Alannah running a personal best of 19:58.00 (that’s a 6:26.00 mile pace for 3.1 miles if you weren’t impressed already) and Sarah running 20:37.00. Senior captain Ava Violich can die happy after achieving her goal of breaking 7-minute mile pace for the 5k with a best of 20:52.00. Other varsity runners Emily Moya (II),

Sophia Vitello (III) and Julia Santoro (III) outdid themselves at divisionals, and up-and-coming runners Celestine He (II), Abigail Thomson (II), Natasha Karunaratne (II) and Annie Coyne (IV) ran well at DCL Championships. The rest of the girls provided a strong finish for the team, each with a competitive personal best. For the boys, seasoned cross country runners George Liu-Krason (captain, I), Weigang Liang (captain, I), Alex Hsia (II), Isaiah Westphalen (III), Yuta Belmont (IV), Victor Yang (IV) and Jack Connolly ran very well in divisionals. Up-and-coming runner Andrey Zvonar (IV), who made a strong impression on the team through both remarkable improvement and a tendency to run shirtless in an attempt to become the next Taylor Lautner (we love you Andrey), had a strong finish at championships, placing ninth in the DCL for freshman boys. The rest of the team supported an eighth place finish for the team in the DCL overall.

This season wasn’t the season for a first-place DCL finish, but as individual runners our team held strong against the best runners in the state. And next season, we’ll be even better—even if we stay invisible to the rest of BLS. Because somewhere in between eating our weight in pasta for every meal and falling asleep on the bus, we may actually have enjoyed cross country—even if we’ll never admit it. As Grace O’Brien says, “Cross country may be torture at times, and forcing yourself up the aptly named Bear Cage Hill in a Franklin Park 5K might be hell, and we might be insane. But running with such an amazing team is cheaper than therapy.”

SPORTS

Girls' Volleyball: The Unthinkable Season

By SAMANTHA TO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One year ago, few people thought that the girls' volleyball team would have been able to achieve what they have done this year. At the beginning of the last season, these girls were put together for the first time and there were high expectations to fill after a monster 2011 season. With a completely new roster and little experience playing together as a team, these girls fought for every single one of their wins last season just to claim their spot in the playoffs.

One year later, we see a team. We see a team that has devoted countless hours of practice during the off-season. We see a team that has proved to share an unbelievable bond with each other both on and off the court. We see a team that has achieved what every Boston Latin School sports team dreams to accomplish one day. With a 12-4 record, they hold the Holy Grail: the 2013 Dual County League

(DCL) Championship.

The team consists of nine powerhouse seniors who dominate the court with every bump, set and spike. For every attack from the opposing team, there is a passer in position to receive it. For every pass made, there is an even more impressive set executed. For every set, there is a hitter with a killer spike that leaves players in a standstill.

Captains Emerson Boone (I), who is notorious for passing dimes on defense and attacking sets on offense, and Erica Szulc (I), who has been a starting setter for three years for the varsity team, have played since the eighth grade. Szulc says, "If you told me five years ago that the volleyball team was to become DCL Champs on

our senior night, I wouldn't have believed you." It was surely a night to be remembered for everyone who attended the game.

According to Boone, what separates this varsity team from those in the past years is that "[they] genuinely cared about one another and had great chemistry on the court without any drama."



2013 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL SENIORS

Behind every great team there is an even greater coach who pushes their players to new limits. For the past 15 years, the varsity team has been led by Coach Kai. Passionate is an understatement when it comes to describing his dedication to the sport. After years of coaching for not only the Boston Latin team but also for a local club team, he has been inducted into the Massachusetts Girls Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame for his ability to turn a good team to into an unstoppable one. He has brought four girls' volleyball championships and a Central East division win to this school. With this season being his final year as a coach, it marks the end of an era and closes his career with one last banner.

Up on the gym wall, there are three titles of Dual County League Champions, with the last being in 2003. After a whole decade, this team of 17 girls can leave the court this year knowing that they will never be seen simply as athletes, but champions.

The Powderpuff Game Returns

By GERMAN TOBAR LEMUS, I
STAFF WRITER

After the frantic panic on whether the shirts were going to come on time or not, after the heated behind the scenes discussions in the Facebook group, finally the game that every boy looks forward to arrived: the Powderpuff game. Despite the fact that it looked like it was going to be a horrible day, due to the early morning showers, it turned out to be a beautiful day to play football. On Monday afternoon, the 2014 senior girls showed up to face their younger rivals, the 2015 junior girls. All the senior girls sported their fierce black Powderpuff shirts and got ready to play the juniors, who wore less intimidating white Powderpuff shirts. As the time approached 3:00 P.M. and the crowd got bigger, the girls prepared to play the game of their lives.

The senior girls seemed to be the

more intimidating team with the daunting height of Maggie Mulligan (I) and the amazing athleticism of Lauren O'Shea (I). They also had the great coaching from the experienced football players: Mike Parham (I), Roy Banham (I), Elvis Antigua (I) and Pat Fahy (I). While the junior girls in white had the quick Hillary Rockett (II) as a quarterback and the efficient scorer Brenna Galvin (II). As coaches, the juniors had the young boys: Peter Honzik (II), Duncan McGaff (II) and Ross Garritty (II). The game started off with a quick touchdown for the seniors by Lauren O'Shea. The juniors were not hopeless however, because they had the rest of the game left to tie up the score. As the juniors returned the ball and the offensive line got out of the sidelines and onto the field, Hillary Rockett made her first appearance as the star quarterback. Unfortunately, due to the strong defensive line the seniors set up, the juniors only achieved a turnover. Sadly,

the seniors ended up fumbling the ball, while the juniors' Brenna Galvin seized the opportunity and recovered the ball. This powerful junior was not taken down until she was near the seniors' end zone, hoping for a touchdown the next play. After a couple more plays, Linda Ruane (II) was successful in getting through the seniors' defense and achieved a rush that resulted in a touchdown, tying the game 1-1 and giving the juniors a sight of victory.

At halftime, both teams engaged in chants and some of the junior girls even made cheering pyramids. When the junior girls tried to chant, "I believe that we will win," they were put down by the seniors' silly "You thought" chant. As the second half started, the senior girls had a trick up their sleeve for defense. When the juniors started their play, they saw the seniors connecting their hands to make a wall that was impossible to get through, and many juniors were caught

in the seniors' trap. The seniors seemed to discourage the juniors' offensive line, while not allowing many plays to be completed and even playing so hard that they tore an opponent's shirt. After a fumble return, the seniors scored another touchdown, giving them the lead (2-1) with a run from their quarterback and star player, Lauren O'Shea. After this play, it was pretty much done for the juniors. Ellie McGonagle (I) probably had the highlight play of the game; she kicked the ball off and then amazingly ran right back to the girl that returned the ball for a crushing tackle, eliminating any chance the juniors had at tying the game up. Shortly after that play, the seniors were victorious with a score of 2-1. All the girls then joined their team and formed a line to congratulate each other on playing a game well-fought. They demonstrated the sportsmanship and morals that BLS has instilled on us, whether you're a sixie or senior. Better luck next year, juniors.

BLS Cheerleading: Never Give Up

By LILY CAFFREY-LEVINE, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite beginning this season with a new coach and the tough loss of six seniors, BLS Cheer prevailed through all the hardships that come from a competitive varsity sport, and took second place at this year's Dual County League (DCL) competition. After defeating league opponent Acton-Boxborough, the girls qualified to compete in regionals against some of the best teams in Massachusetts.

When the word "cheerleading" comes into conversation, most people think of short skirts, pom poms, bows and football games. As the only competitive cheerleading team in the city of Boston, the BLS cheerleaders show the city that cheerleading is much more than that. Whether it is driving out to the gym in Canton, working hard in the zone after school or trying to finish all their homework after a long night of practice, these girls always have to be on their A-game. It takes being in top condition, physically and mentally, to get through the two-minute-and-thirty-second competition routine.

The routine is carefully crafted in August, and the girls spend the next month and a half perfecting every stunt, jump, motion, basket toss and tumbling



"WOLFIE" AND THE CHEERLEADERS ENTERTAIN THE CROWD AT A FOOTBALL GAME.

pass. Although the routine is exhausting, they work hard though two and a half hour practices to make sure that everything hits. This instills in them the mentality to never give up, no matter what.

Aside from the strength needed

to make it though the routine, the girls have a level of trust with each other that is hard to find even with the best of friends. "I can feel every movement my bases are making under me. A shift of a finger can cause me to topple straight down to the floor. But over the past few months, we've grown together so much as a team and as a family that I can trust them with my life," says Celina Qi (II). As these girls defy the laws of gravity, they show you how hard they work by making it all look easy. Temi Ashorobi (I) says, "Performing on those blue mats alongside with my teammates, well, more like sisters, has taught me something about myself that no other sport has ever accomplished."

The BLS cheerleaders also give a new meaning to "work hard, play hard." Whether they are stunting at sweet sixteens or breaking out into random dancing at practice, these girls always bring the party with them. Before practice you can see Nya Gavin (I) and Niamh Ryan (I) strutting down to Chipotle in their purple shades, or Temitope Ashorobi teaching the younger girls on the team how to dance without embarrassing themselves in the locker room. You might also see

Grace O'Brien (I) and Mary Tarantino (I) joking around with the sophomores, freshman and even the eighth graders of the varsity team, something rarely seen at BLS. The girls of BLS Cheer are like a family, and even though they are 22 girls with 22 huge personalities, once they hit that blue mat, they are one team.

Now some might ask, "What about the football games? Isn't that part of it too?" And the answer is, yes. Even with all the hard work, practice and competitions every weekend, these girls still have time to drive to towns in the outskirts of Massachusetts to cheer on the football team. Some games have tons of fans, nice weather and high scores, but other games have freezing temperatures, a few parents in the stands and low scores. Throughout it, all the BLS cheerleaders are always there to cheer on the football team, hit all their pyramids, and maybe even rock the chicken dance, win or lose. Captain Grace Colleran (I) and Cara Rathmell (I) are always telling the girls how important it is that they are committed to school, cheer and supporting others.

This year the team is going to lose seven very valuable seniors, who are irreplaceable as friends and as teammates. As always, BLS cheer will prevail though the hardships because these girls never give up.